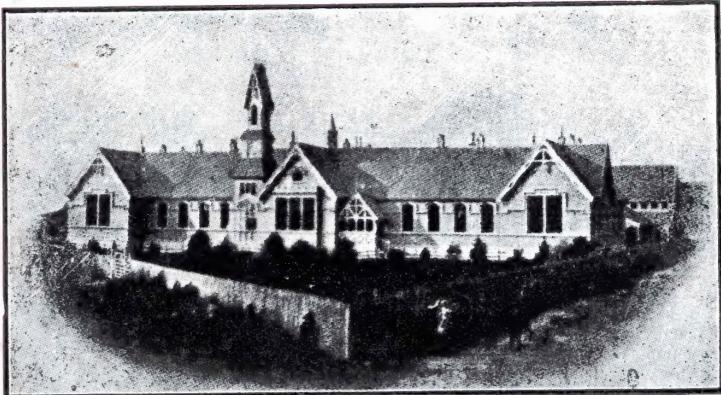
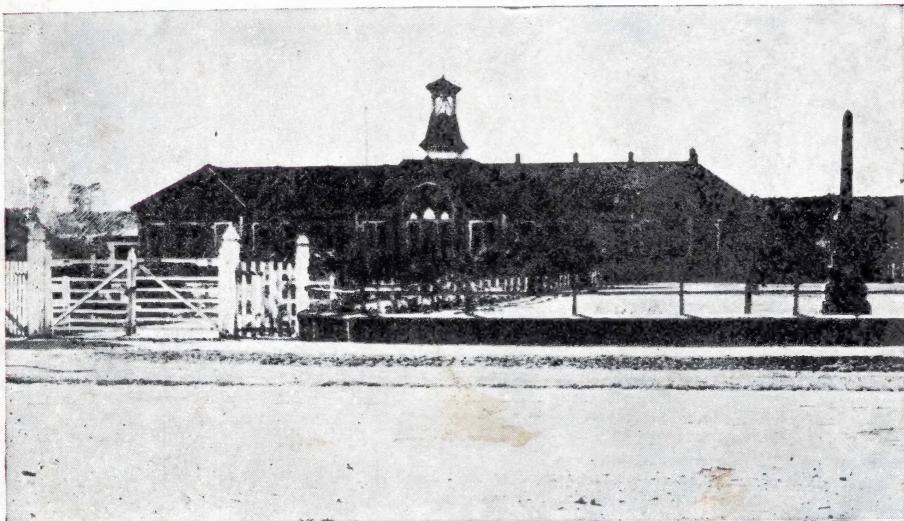


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1875 - 1953



GUARDIAN PRINT

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Foreword

The closing of a school building that has served a community for some seventy years, and the opening of an up-to-date structure in its place, is a matter of some importance, meriting more than just passing interest. It appeared to the undersigned that one appropriate way of commemorating the event would be to record in a historical survey the salient points in the history of the school from its inception up to the time the new building could be officially occupied, and the old vacated. Records of the early days, however, are increasingly difficult to obtain, and much research of newspaper and official files and other sources would need to be undertaken if authenticity was to characterise the survey.

A happy chance conversation in 1951 with Mr R. W. Watson, a one-time pupil of the Primary Department and a foundation member of the High School in 1891, resulted in his acceptance of the task of undertaking the research necessary to record the school's history. Mr Watson became interested in his task, and as a result wrote up the story of Education in Westland from the beginning up to 1900, with special reference to the Hokitika State School. This work has been cyclostyled to preserve it for posterity, but from it the story of the Hokitika School has been taken to form the basis of this historical survey, from the beginning up to 1953. The publication is therefore confidently offered to the school's many pupils, past, present and future, and to others interested in the achievements of the school in its 78 years of existence.

Acknowledgement is made of the assistance given by the Hokitika "Guardian" in making their valuable "West Coast Times" files available; and thanks are accorded to Government Departments for access to records, to Mr Jack Preston for access to his "West Coast Times" files which originally made the project attractive to Mr Watson, to Mrs M. Dale for use of photographs from the late Miss E. Ward's collection, and among others, to the late Miss Annie Dixon, daughter of the first Headmaster, for personal and previously unpublished information.

W. J. JEFFERIES,

Headmaster.

Hokitika District High School,

1st December, 1953.



MR ROBERT WILLIAM WATSON

Mr Watson, who undertook the research from which this historical survey of the Hokitika School up to 1900 was written, was born in Hokitika in March, 1876. He attended first the Hokitika and then the Kumara State schools, qualifying in January, 1891, for a Board Scholarship to attend the Hokitika District High School. He was a foundation member of the Secondary Department in 1891. In January, 1893, he passed both Junior Civil Service and Matriculation examinations, being the first pupil of the school to pass the latter, and entered the Lands and Survey Department in 1894 as a Cadet. He passed the Senior Civil Service examination in 1895, and qualified as a Government Land Surveyor in 1899. Going to South Africa in 1902, where in 1903 he became Assistant Engineer to the Durban Corporation, he qualified in 1910 for Associate Membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers (London) and in 1927 was appointed City Engineer to the Durban City Council. He was elected in 1931 to full membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and in 1935 he received the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal in recognition of his public service. On his retirement in 1936, he and his wife made a world tour, and in 1938 settled in Hokitika, where they now reside.

CHAPTER I

FOUNDING OF HOKITIKA

Before the discovery of gold on the West Coast, Westland was practically an unknown land lying to the west of the great dividing range separating it from the growing Canterbury settlement. It was known, very slightly, to a few intrepid explorers such as Brunner, the Dobsons, Heaphy and Rochefort, and to some of the South Island Maoris. The heavily timbered, wet, mountainous nature of the country, with its dangerous coastline, barred it from exploitation for cattle and sheep, and thus it remained practically untouched while Canterbury built up a population of some 35,000 people. Then in 1864 came news that gold had been found in the gravels of a creek called the "Greenstone," followed by further finds in the valleys and along the beaches. The Canterbury Provincial Agent, Mr W. H. Revell, was reluctantly satisfied that the West Coast of the province was truly rich in gold, and soon the news spread throughout the Colony and beyond. The great rush to the Coast was quickly in motion. No longer was the western district of Canterbury to remain unknown. Soon it was to become famous.

Generally, the men who rushed the Coast by land and by sea in 1865-66 were a sturdy body of men, young, adventurous, independent, and industrious. Among them were professional men, fine tradesmen and technicians. They were accompanied or immediately followed by the merchants, business and professional men, while Christchurch provided the necessary official staffs. Amongst these were men of attainment and great sense of responsibility for the welfare of the community with which they had so suddenly become acquainted. Such a one was George Samuel Sale, whose earlier classical training in England was later to give him a distinguished Professorship at Otago University. The number of women and children, small at first, increased as the miners settled down and built homes. The main method of entry to the goldfields was by sea and thus many skippers risked the safety of their ships and scores of men their lives in entering at high tides the estuaries of the fast flowing and frequently sand-barred Hokitika and Grey rivers, the nearest landing places to the localities in which gold had been found. Consequently, these two rivers became the main ports of entry, and for a time, the Hokitika was the more important.

For a few years, vessels trading to the port of Hokitika exceeded the number trading to any other port in the Colony. Of the total number of people who landed at the port within the period 1865-1868, approximately 12,000 went afield to seek gold in the alluvial sands and gravels, establishing several mining villages and camps of unstable population. The remainder, some five or six thousand, settled at the port and founded the town of Hokitika which became the emporium and centre of Government for the whole district. Law and order prevailed almost from the first. The fine character of the pioneers ensured that a modern town would be carved out of the wilderness, and settled by a competent, law-abiding people.

During the hurry of the "rush," a narrow, crooked street, named after Mr Revell, developed north along the sand dunes from the river side, and became the shopping and general meeting place. Apart from this, the town was laid out in conformity with the best practices of the day, which provided for wide streets, and recreation, education and other reserves. It was proclaimed the Borough of Hokitika in the year 1867, and the machinery of civic government was set in motion.

CHAPTER II

EDUCATION IN FOUNDATION YEARS

Very early in the settlement of Hokitika concern was evident for the educational welfare of those children who had arrived with their parents. The Hokitika-born child would not reach school age until the early 'seventies, but the necessity for establishing schools would not permit delay pending the arrival of prospective scholars. The growing demand was met by the establishment of several private schools, the first one being that of Mrs Cairns, who in July, 1865, opened a day school at her residence in Revell Street. By September, a "Hokitika School" had been opened by Mr Malcolm on a site at the junction of Tancred and Stafford Streets. Evening classes were opened at the Seminary in February, 1866, and in the same month Miss Willoughby opened a school in Weld Street opposite Sewell Street. Shortly after, Miss Young opened a school at the corner of Hampden and Revell Streets. Miss Colls and Miss Ponsonby had opened schools also by the end of 1867, while in August, 1868, the Hokitika Academy was established at the corner of Tancred and Stafford Streets, under the control of Mr Paterson. In July, 1870, Ashton's Academy was opened in Weld Street.

The early influence of the churches on the social life of the new community is well illustrated by their work in the interest of education. The Anglican, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches had, by 1867, established their own schools, which, although denominational in character, were open to all who could pay the fees. Many of the early schools were short lived, but by 1873, the following three were well established:—

- (1) All Saints School, Fitzherbert Street. Head Master, Mr Stanton.
Mistress: Mrs Soffa.
- (2) St. Mary's School, Tancred Street. Head Teacher: Mr Carrick.
Mistresses: Miss E. J. Kirk
and Mrs Sutton.
- (3) Hokitika Academy, Sewell Street. Head Master: Mr Jas. Scott, M.A.
Mistress: Miss Quinlan.

Six "Ladies'" Schools were also open in various parts of the town where young ladies could learn the "accomplishments".

Scott's Academy was the most famous of all of the old privately conducted schools. Sir John Findlay, Mr R. A. Wright, one-time member for Wellington Suburbs, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Macfarlane, were among the scholars trained there. Helen Connon, later to become one of the first women in New Zealand to gain University distinction, was also a distinguished pupil of Scott's Academy.

Throughout the Colony, attention was being given to the matter of a national system of education which culminated in the Education Act of 1877 providing for free, secular and compulsory education. Westland was interested in this agitation and by the time the Act was passed, had under its Ordinance of 1874, several "National" schools well established. The stages through which education in Westland passed up to 1877 may be summarised as follows:—

1. 1865—1868. Under the Canterbury Provincial Council.

The only facilities for education were those provided by private enterprise and by the respective churches, assisted by small grants made by the Canterbury Provincial Council.

2. 1868—1873. Under the Westland County Council.

Westland in 1868 separated from Canterbury and was governed by a County Council which placed Education under the control of a Board of Education. The Board established district schools known as "National Schools".

3. 1874—1876. Under the Westland Provincial Council.

Westland became a separate Province, and was governed by a Provincial Council, which placed Education under the control of a Central Board of Education. An Ordinance of 1874 provided for a uniform system of education throughout the Province.

4. 1876—1877. Under the Interim Education Board's Act, 1876.

On the abolition of the Provincial system, interim Boards were appointed to maintain existing systems operative pending the adoption of a National System of Education.

5. 1877 Onwards. Under the Education Act of 1877 and its Amendments.

The "National" Schools established in Westland by 1877 had anticipated the Act of that year, and thus the change from the Provincial to the National or State system was made without any major disorganisation.

CHAPTER III

HOKITIKA STATE SCHOOL: 1875-1886

(1) Establishment, 1875.

When Westland was proclaimed a Province in 1874, a Westland Education Ordinance of that year spelt the beginning of the end of the old Private Schools as they then existed, for they were, with the exception of St. Mary's, supplanted by Provincial Schools. A few schools, however, did remain open for the next fifteen years or so, with declining enrolments. The Private Schools in Hokitika had performed excellent work, and had provided a good Primary education to many children. Indeed, it is said that the Academy afforded facilities equivalent to Secondary education. Each school, however, followed a course of its own, taught the subjects it thought most suitable, conducted its own examinations, and appointed its own teachers.

To put the Ordinance of 1874 into effect, it was necessary to appoint or elect School Committees and a Central Board of Education. Each Committee was to have representation on the Central Board.

The members of the first Hokitika School Committee under this Ordinance were: Messrs Fitzgerald, Churches, Johnstone, Milligan, Patterson and Reid. Mr Reid was elected Chairman and Mr Fitzgerald was chosen by the Committee to represent them on the Central Board, which, of course, was the principal body.

The Central Body soon instructed the Hokitika School Committee to report on the availability of temporary school buildings and the number of teachers required for the establishment of a Hokitika State School. Meantime, the Board appointed in April, 1874, a permanent Secretary and Inspector of Schools in the person of Mr John Smith, who was to play a most important part in education in Westland. After Mr Smith had inspected the existing schools and submitted his report to the Central Board, they resolved to purchase for £125 the buildings occupied by Scott's Academy and to rent the Wesleyan Church building to serve as temporary premises, and to appoint head and second masters, and head and second mistresses. Applications for these positions were then advertised.

Fifteen applications were received for the position of Headmaster, and Mr Jas. Scott, M.A., was chosen. Mr Scott had, however, applied with success for a similar position at Timaru. Thus were lost the services of an experienced and very capable Headmaster who had in the past done much for the advancement of education in Hokitika. A delay consequently ensued in making an appointment to the most important teaching position, and so Mr W. S. Stanton, who had been Headmaster at "All Saints" was engaged temporarily. Mr P. Kelly, who had been assistant to Mr Scott at the Academy, was appointed second master; Miss Galland, of Nelson, became Headmistress, and Miss Wilberg assistant mistress.

The opening of the Hokitika State School, or National School as it was called, therefore took place on Monday, 27th September, 1875, with Mr W. S. Stanton as acting Headmaster, and Mr P. Kelly, Miss A.

Galland and Miss Wilberg as assistants. About 200 scholars attended on the opening day.

On 23rd October, 1875, Mr E. B. Dixon was selected from among eight applicants, as Headmaster, and he assumed duties in January, 1876. Mr Dixon was a Nelson man with high credentials. He was accompanied to Hokitika by Mrs Dixon, a qualified teacher, shortly to be appointed temporarily as second mistress in succession to Miss Wilberg, who resigned soon after the school opened. Mr Dixon and Mr Kelly held their classes in the old Academy buildings, Sewell Street, while the girls under the tuition of Miss Galland and Mrs Dixon met at the old Wesleyan Church, off Tancerd Street. The population of Hokitika at this time numbered 3,352, about one third of which was Hokitika born.

The number of children attending the school increased rapidly. In October, 1875, it was 350 and by March, 1876, the number on the roll had increased to 445. To ease the strain on the teaching staff, two pupil teachers were appointed.

(2) Battle of the Sites.

The time had undoubtedly arrived when a new school building was an urgent necessity. The three separate old buildings in use were overcrowded and unhealthy and should be abandoned without delay. Accordingly, in January, 1876, the School Committee decided to take steps immediately with a view to recommending a suitable site for a new school building. About the same time the Central Board resolved that their Building Committee be authorized to choose from the Education Reserves the most suitable site for the erection of a school, and further, procure plans and specifications for a building capable of accommodating 700 children, and submit same for the approval of the Board at their next meeting.

Actually, the Board, without consultation with the School Committee, had commenced to clear one of the Reserves situated at the junction of Spencer Street and Rolleston Street—right at the foot of the terrace—where no town development has been effected up to the present day. Neither the Committee nor the public would consider the site or any one of the Reserves allotted for educational purposes, and would strongly protest should the Board decide to erect a building on the site being cleared.

The Committee recommended that steps be taken to exchange one of the Education Reserves for the Provincial Government Reserves Nos. 98 and 99, at the corner of Park and Sale Streets, although this would involve the closing of the diagonal Street Reserve known as Haast Street.

The West Coast Times, supported by several residents, suggested that three acres be taken from Cass Square for School purposes, but this was considered neither desirable nor practicable. In the end, the School Committee won the Battle of the Sites and so the proposed school building was in due course erected on the site favoured by them.

Tenders for the school building, which was designed by Messrs Young Bros., Architects, Greymouth, closed in April, 1876, and the structure, although incomplete, was made available in April, 1877, and finally handed over by the Contractors, Duncan and Co., in June of that year. The cost was approximately £2000.

The first official inspection of the schools in the Province was made in March, 1876. The higher divisions of the Hokitika School under Mr Dixon received favourable reports; but the second division rather an adverse one. The division under Miss Galland received an excellent report, and there were no complaints made regarding the infant division under Mrs Dixon. If, on the whole, the Report was not eminently satisfactory, there were highlights, James Carr, of Hokitika, coming highest in the Province for the 6th class, and Janet Cornfoot, also of Hokitika, coming second in the Province for the 5th class.

(3) First Distribution of Prizes.

The old buildings were still in use when the first distribution of prizes to children attending the Hokitika National School was made in December, 1876. At that date the school had been in existence 15 months. Four hundred children were present in the Town Hall and the back of the building was crowded with parents and friends.

The Chairman of the School Committee, Mr Hardeastle, presided, and on the platform were Hon. Jas. A. Bonar, and Messrs FitzGerald, Patten, Patterson, Williams, Button and Virtue. Mr Bonar, in addressing the large gathering, said that the present system of education had replaced one that had been successful in Hokitika, though valueless in the country districts. He felt great satisfaction in having such a system established. In previous years they had no funds and were obliged to get along as best they could. In the main centres of population the different denominations had done well, but in the outlying districts there was an entire absence of Education. This had contributed to bring about the change to Provincialism; and one of the first acts of the Provincial Council was to bring in an Education Ordinance. The present system was working well, but it was felt that it did not go far enough. The first object was to obtain for their children a good plain education; but he hoped a system of higher education would be introduced so that people could get for their children in Hokitika what was obtained in other places.

Mr Reid spoke briefly in the interests of the teachers. He thought the results of the recent examinations were highly creditable to them, considering the many disadvantages under which they had to labour. He felt sure the existing staff, Mr Dixon, Mr Soundy, and the Misses Galland had the work of the school at heart, and that once they got into the new building the general progress of the school would be more marked than at present.

The names of the principal prize winners were:—

Standard	Boys	Girls
6	R. B. Scott, Thos. Marr,	B. Keller, J. Cornfoot,
5	H. Gosling, R. Haigh,	W. Dixon, E. Ecclesfield,
4	P. Helming, H. Trice,	R. Hawkins, F. Turner,
3	J. Dixon, C. Banks.	J. McMillan, S. Bloom.

Class prizes, attendance prizes, good conduct prizes and special prizes were also awarded. Many of the above prize winners are still well remembered, and some of the younger scholars who received prizes are happily still with us.

(4) Formal Opening of First Building, 1877.

There existed much public discontent with the apparently slow progress being made by the contractors for the new school. "When, we wonder, will we be in a position to announce the opening of the Hokitika School?" the morning paper asked. Then someone insisted that the penalty clauses of the contract be endorsed and so it went on. But this impatience showed how urgent it had become to move the children and teachers from the overcrowded and unhealthy environment in which they were working. Actually, there had been no undue delay on the part of the contractors. The foundation and drainage works, owing to the swampy nature of the ground, gave trouble; but, when this was overcome, the superstructure was erected in a quite reasonable time and, as previously stated, the building was handed over to the Committee in June, 1877.

On the evening of the 20th June, 1877, the formal opening took place and was, as might be expected, accompanied by much ceremony. The building was thronged in every part by parents, visitors and children. Mr Virtue, the Chairman of the School Committee, presided and read the following letter received from His Honour, Judge Weston: "So far as I am able to judge, education upon the West Coast has been greatly neglected, and notwithstanding the efforts that a few like you yourself have so zealously made, it is yet in an unsatisfactory condition. The State Schools, however well they are conducted, afford but an elementary education, and as private academies for higher training are not obtainable in small communities, it must follow that unless additional classes are made or grammar schools are established, the latter being presided over by men learned and qualified to impart their knowledge to others, the children around us will be in after years unable to compete with those brought up in larger districts. In my opinion, every effort should be made by a young Colony to bestow upon the humblest and poorest of its inhabitants the best education it can afford, not only to secure for it good government in the future, but to enable its own people to keep pace with others from afar who, like themselves, may be engaged in developing its resources, and in starting new industries."

Mr Virtue also read a letter received from the Chairman of the Education Board, Mr Patten. He then said that he agreed with Judge Weston that a higher class of education should be instituted, but he hardly endorsed His Honour's remarks to the effect that, hitherto, education had been neglected here. Only a few years ago this had been merely a howling waste, and it was astonishing to see the great advance that had been made. There was no excuse for parents not sending their children to school. If they were unable to pay the rate or to purchase school books they were not pressed to do so.

Mr Bonar congratulated the School Committee on the style and substantial nature of the school building. He agreed that higher education should not be left uncared for, and he felt gratified that the Central Board was prepared to introduce higher classes. Mr Bonar thought that education should be compulsory, but he would be unwilling to resort to other than moral compulsion. He would like to see penny savings banks introduced into every State School.



MR AND MRS E. B. DIXON

Ezra Brook Dixon, a tenor solo Royal Medallist at the opening of the Crystal Palace Exhibition, attended London University to take Holy Orders but for health reasons he emigrated in the "Edward Thornhill" to Nelson, where in 1860 he worked with Mr Lewis (of Lewis Pass fame) in surveying Riwaka, before taking up sheep farming in Golden Bay.

In 1862, his fiancee, Laura Yeo, a capable musician, arrived in Auckland on the "Owen Glendower," being chaperoned by Major and Mrs Tisdale. After their marriage in St. Paul's, Auckland, Mr and Mrs Dixon journeyed by boat to Collingwood, and by bullock waggon to Takaka.

In the early 1870's, Mr Dixon was appointed Headmaster of the Lower Takaka school, Mrs Dixon acting as Infant Mistress. Later, he moved to the Collingwood school, and in January, 1876, he took up the position of first Headmaster of the newly established Hokitika school, Mrs Dixon acting as Infant Mistress for a short period. There were four daughters and three sons of the marriage.

Mrs Dixon died in 1884, and Mr Dixon re-married in 1887. He resigned his appointment as Headmaster at the close of 1890 to become Inspector and Secretary to the Westland Education Board, holding this position until his death on 9th May, 1891, at the early age of 53, following a chill contracted while umpiring a football match on Cass Square. He is interred beside his first wife in the Hokitika Cemetery.

Both Mr and Mrs Dixon were prominent in cultural activities in Hokitika. A foundation member of the Philharmonic Society, re-formed in 1878, Mr Dixon was often an artist in the Duke of Edinburgh Opera House, Reveli Street, while Mrs Dixon frequently acted as accompaniste at concerts.

MR JOHN GAMMELL,
B.A. (Lon.)

Headmaster, 1891.

Mr Gammell was Inspector to the Southland Education Board before becoming Rector of the Hokitika District High School on its establishment in 1891. On the death of Mr Dixon in May of that year, he was appointed Inspector and Secretary to the Westland Education Board.



MR THOMAS HENRY GILL,
M.A., LL.B.

Headmaster 1891-1898.

Leaving Hokitika in 1898 for Wellington where he took up the Headmastership of the Newtown School, he became Inspector of Secondary Schools in 1907, and later took up the practice of Law in Wellington.



MR HUGH GODFREY
WAKE, M.A.

Headmaster 1899-1911.

Mr Wake was Rector for 12½ years, after which he became Headmaster of East Christchurch School, and is now retired and living in Christchurch.





MR LEONARD FREDERICK
de BERRY, M.A.

Headmaster, 1911-1918.

Mr de Berry left Hokitika to become Headmaster of Marton D.H.S. He became Headmaster of Christchurch West D.H.S., from which position he retired and is now living in Christchurch. Mr de Berry is well known for his Spelling Books.



MR JOHN BRUNTON, M.A.

Headmaster, 1918-1920.

Mr Brunton became an Inspector of Schools in various districts in New Zealand, and is now deceased.



MR THOMAS IRVINE, M.A.

Headmaster, 1921-1924.

Mr Irvine became Headmaster of Clyde Quay School, Wellington, on leaving Hokitika in 1924. He died unexpectedly whilst at his work.

MR ERNEST PARTRIDGE,
M.A.

Headmaster, 1925-1930.

Mr Partridge became an Inspector of Schools, and later held the post of Principal of the Teachers' Training College, Dunedin, from which he retired in 1949, and is now resident in Christchurch.



MR JAMES LAWRENCE
MENZIES

Headmaster, 1930-1936.

Mr Menzies later became Headmaster of the Temuka D.H.S. from which position he retired and now resides in Christchurch.

MR JOHN GEORGE JOHN-
STON, M.Com.

Headmaster, 1936-1940.

Mr Johnston was on the staff of the Timaru Technical School before coming to Hokitika. He is at present Headmaster of the East Christchurch School, Christchurch.



Mr Seddon referred to the promised educational measure to be introduced during the coming session of Parliament, and hoped that, if it became law, it would answer the purpose as well as the Ordinance then in force had done.

The Ordinance referred to by Mr Seddon was, of course, the Westland Provincial Education Ordinance of 1874, and the promised measure became the Education Act of 1877.

A caretaker of the school was appointed and the improvement of the grounds was immediately undertaken.

(5) Progress — 1877-1891.

The year 1877, though an important one, was a bad one for the school owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever arising from the defective sanitary conditions of the town.

The School Committee, in their Annual Report, stated that the year was one of great changes and unusual difficulties; but now they possessed a new and united school instead of the three previous unsuitable and unhealthy old buildings and better results could be expected. The register showed a total of 657 different scholars. The highest number on the roll at any one time was 508, the highest number present in one day was 411, and the daily average for the year was 317. The school as at first erected, had proved too small and measures were taken to add three additional rooms, which would complete the original plan of the architect. These additions were completed in March, 1878, and about the same time the gymnasium was under construction, the materials from Scott's Academy building being used. Instruction in the gymnasium was given by Professor David, a dapper alert Frenchman, who later was on the staff of Otago Boys' High School.

If the passing of the Education Act of 1877 opened a new era for education in New Zealand, it may also be said that the opening of the new State School building in the same year lent emphasis to that fact in so far as Hokitika was concerned.

The staff this year comprised Messrs E. B. Dixon, R. Soundy, L. D. Easton, Misses A. and F. Galland, and pupil teachers Miss Kennaugh, Miss Wilberg and Masters J. Carr and T. Marr.

YEAR 1878

The first School Committee to function under the Education Act of 1877 was elected in January, and consisted of Messrs Virtue, Duncan, Reid, Pozzi, Blake and Crawford.

Two new school teachers were appointed in January, namely Miss Patrick, Senior Mistress, and Miss Batten (Dolly). Both ladies came from Victoria with excellent testimonials.

In March, the Chairman of the School Committee reported that the School was in better working order than it had ever been. Mr Dixon had expressed himself highly satisfied with the present staff. The average daily attendance of scholars exceeded 406.

The low percentage of children attending the schools at this period caused much dissatisfaction, and the advisability of bringing into force the compulsory clauses of the Education Act was considered.

About this time, chiefly because of over expenditure, the salaries of teachers were reduced; some schools were placed on part time, and others closed. Mr Eaton and the school caretaker were retrenched, and the Board appropriated the whole of the School Committee's contingency fund. Further, the payment of salaries was delayed, house allowances discontinued, and the system of paying teachers by results, which had been in operation for some time, was discontinued. Also, the erection of very necessary school buildings was postponed.

These events were the cause of much friction between the Board and School Committee, and the teachers entered a strong protest against reduction in their salaries.

In October, regulations relating to scholarships in Westland were introduced, and the first examination covering the whole district was held in January, 1879.

YEAR 1879

In June, Mr Soundy, assistant master, and Miss Patrick, head mistress, resigned and Mr J. McLeod and Miss Batten succeeded to the respective positions. At the same time Mr Wilkin was appointed second assistant master.

It has already been mentioned that, for frugality, the services of a caretaker had been dispensed with. Now, fences were falling down, and the grounds were reverting to swamp. The Committee reported these circumstances to the Board and strongly recommended that a new appointment be made. Times were, indeed, bad throughout the country.

In July, and later months, the question of corporal punishment was much discussed. It had been reported that children were kept from school because of the severe punishment inflicted for seemingly trivial offences. Mr Dixon was involved, and much unpleasantness resulted. Inspector Smith reported that frequent and indiscriminate application of corporal punishment had a hardening and brutalising effect; but, he said, very few would be bold enough to admit that it could be entirely discarded. Quite a lot more was said by the public, generally, on this interesting topic. Some thought that corporal punishment should be inflicted by the headmaster only, and in private. Others thought that most boys earned an occasional flagellation and that it should be given them in front of the class—and so on.

About this time interest in School Committee work began to languish, and difficulty was experienced in forming the necessary quorums. This arose out of the prevailing economic situation. The Committees depended on the Education Board for supplies, but the latter was in financial difficulties and practically unable to accede to the requests of the Committees for monetary assistance.

Financial difficulties did not prevent the Hokitika School from making steady progress. The Inspector, in a mid-year report on the working of the school, stated "every department of this school is thoroughly well taught. At present, owing to a vacancy in the staff, an extra amount of labour and responsibility is thrown on the headmaster. As regards order and discipline, this school is second to none in the district, and compares favourably with any of the larger schools in Christchurch."

YEAR 1880

In the Scholarship Examination held in January, Gerhard Mueller, of Hokitika, gained second place.

The School Committee for the year consisted of Messrs Parker, Virtue, Weston, Jack, Klein, Hudson and Lindstrom. There was evidence of bad feeling between the Committee and the Education Board. In this connection, Judge Weston said "men should be elected to committeees who would not allow the Board to tell them to mind their own business. The local Committee are the people who should have control of the school. There was a time when the school was likely to have fallen to pieces, but for the pluck of the headmaster and mistress." The Board replied to the effect that they were the more responsible body.

During the year, a determined effort was made by a majority of the School Committee to dispense with Mr Dixon's services. His resignation was requested as he had lost the confidence of the Committee. The Education Board, however, called for more information, and after a thorough enquiry Mr Dixon was completely exonerated from the petty charges made against him.

The Inspector, in his annual report, stated that several new subjects had been introduced, viz., elementary science, music, drawing, physical geography and drill. The percentage of passes at the examinations was very high and, the Inspector said, "We are not in any way behind our neighbours as regards the efficiency of the majority of our public schools." The staff comprised four adult and eight pupil teachers. A Table published in the Minister of Education's Report for the year 1880 showed that the percentage of pupils who passed, in proportion to the number presented for examination, was highest in every standard in Westland.

Two new teachers were appointed during the year, namely Miss Cox, assistant mistress, and Miss E. Ecclesfield, pupil teacher. A caretaker was also appointed on the recommendation of the School Committee. At the same time, Mr Wilkin, assistant master, tendered his resignation. Further progress was indicated by the establishment of a school library, and the purchase of a house for the head teacher's residence.

YEAR 1881

Interest in School Committee work, encouraged by the press, began to revive, and the election for the 1881 Committee was described as exciting. The gentlemen elected were Messrs Rae, Hudson, Perry, Nicholson, Jack, Smith and Williams. The population of Hokitika was then 2,617.

The district examination for scholarships was held in January, and Francis Allen, Hokitika, came top.

The report of the outgoing Committee indicated no change in the staff during the year, its members being:—Messrs Dixon, McLeod, McLean, Banks and Reynolds; and Misses Batten, Cox, James, Oliver, Turnbull, Ralfe and Ecclesfield. The average attendance for the year was 374 and the number of pupils on the roll was 454. A very complete and well selected circulating library had been provided by the public.

A Royal Commission on Higher Education during the year recommended that a High School should be established in Hokitika, to be maintained out of revenue from Secondary School reserves in Westland. The Inspector for the Westland Education Board, however, recommended that it be established in Greymouth.

YEAR 1882

W. Kelly, Hokitika, came second in the Scholarship examination this year.

The School Committee comprised Messrs Parker, Jack, Hudson, Smith, Rae, Perry, and Rev. Douglas.

(6) Dispute With Central Board.

Generally, the year 1882 was an unpleasant one for all interested in educational matters. The removal of the Education Board's office to Greymouth was a subject of dispute throughout the year.

A strongly worded petition was forwarded by residents of Hokitika to the Minister of Education, relative to the action of the Board. The petition dealt with the deplorable state into which education affairs had been forced by the Board, and outlined the grievances of the schools and inhabitants of Westland.

A deputation of the local School Committee waited on the Hon. Mr Rolleston on the occasion of a visit paid by him to Hokitika, and put their case before him. Mr Virtue, the chief spokesman, explained the "violent abduction of the Board's offices from Hokitika," and he was supported by Messrs Rae, McWhirter, Jack and Hudson. Mr Seddon rather spoilt the effect when he stated that the people of Hokitika were as much to blame as the Greymouth people, inasmuch as they had combined against the Grey.

It will be seen that feeling was at high tension when a Bill, promoted by the Hokitika School Committee, was introduced into Parliament with the object of making Westland a separate Educational District and also of establishing a High School at Hokitika. The Bill was sponsored in the House by Messrs FitzGerald and Seddon, and strenuously opposed by the Grey members, Messrs Petrie and Watson, on the advice of the Education Board. The Bill failed at the second reading, and so the offices of the Education Board remained in Greymouth for the time being.

During the ensuing months there were many "exchanges" between the Education Board and the Hokitika School Committee in which neither question nor reply was noted for courtesy.

On receipt of complaints from the Inspector and teachers of poor attendances at the classes, the School Committee decided that irregular attendance should debar scholars from attending the annual school examination, and this was put into effect during the year. Further, the police were requested to report on those failing to attend school regularly.

The outgoing Committee reported that it had been involved in financial difficulty during the whole year, in consequence of the allowance for fuel, cleaning, etc., being reduced from £100 to £50 per annum. As

the caretaker was paid £110 per annum the Committee was unable to keep out of debt.

Considerable movement had occurred in the staff, including the resignation of Miss Cox, Miss Jones and Mr McLeod. Mr R. T. Elcoate, who succeeded Mr McLeod, came from Victoria and was reported to be a thoroughly trained teacher of the highest class; and his selection had been a most fortunate one. The number of pupils on the roll at the end of the year was 427. The results of the annual examination were highly satisfactory, especially as only nine months had elapsed since the previous examination. One hundred and sixty-three of the 199 children examined passed.

The effect of the policy of debarring irregular attenders from presenting themselves for examination will be noted.

The results of the examination held at the end of 1882 were:—

Standard VI : Isobel Ecclesfield; Elizabeth Ramsay; Isabella Mueller.
Standard V : Marion Jack; George Perry; Arthur Benjamin.
Standard IV : Haco Roslin; Henry Nightingale; Arthur Dixon.
Standard III : Richard Thorpe; Henry Cusdin; Emily Fletcher.
Standard II : Archibald Jack; Clara McKay; Catherine Cran.
Standard I : Catherine Nicholson; Eleanor Renton; Eva Ramsay.

YEAR 1883

Isobel Ecclesfield came second in the Scholarship examination this year.

The breach between North and South was widened in March when a deliberate attempt was made to secure for the north a definite majority on the Education Board by tampering with the voting papers submitted by the Committees. Messrs Seddon, Rae and Jack would have secured seats on the Board had the ballot papers not been returned to certain of the Committees for further consideration.

The people of Hokitika were incensed and submitted a case for the hearing of the Supreme Court, but no judgment was issued. It was made to appear that although the Grey members had acted improperly, they had not acted illegally.

At a crowded meeting held in the Hokitika Town Hall, in June, it was resolved "that steps be taken to prepare a monster petition to the Minister of Education praying him to appoint a Commission to inquire into the management of the grants for educational purposes in Westland during the past three years." The meeting also resolved "that Messrs Seddon and FitzGerald, M.H.R.'s, be earnestly requested to bring in a Bill this session having for its object the separation of Westland County from the Greymouth portion of the Education District."

Accordingly, a petition bearing 3000 names praying for separation was forwarded to Mr Seddon who lost no time in introducing into the Assembly a Bill to give effect to the prayer of the petitioners.

The Bill was opposed strongly by the members for the Grey district but passed all stages in both Houses and became law. The same Bill included provision for the establishment of a High School in Hokitika. This section of the Bill also passed both Houses.

Thus, the people of Westland County were successful in their second attempt to secure by legislation separation from the Grey portion of the Educational District.

(7) 'The Westland Education District Sub-division Act,' 1883.

The passing of the Bill caused much rejoicing in Hokitika. The school bell was pealed for some minutes; and the children were granted a half holiday with the promise of an extra holiday after the school examinations were over.

The Bill, when enacted and entitled "The Westland Education District Subdivision Act," separated the North from the South, in educational affairs. The new Southern District was to comprise the County of Westland and the boroughs of Hokitika, Kumara and Ross. The Act was to have effect as from the 1st January, 1884. In the meantime, the old Board was to function until new ones were elected; and the elections for the new Boards were to be held in November, 1883. The Inspector, Secretary and teachers were to be retained in their positions until such time as the new Boards had made other arrangements and these Boards were to proportion out existing assets and liabilities.

The Greymouth members, using their majority on the old Board, and taking advantage of some legal technicality made every endeavour to frustrate the purposes of the Act, and in this they were for a time successful.

These delaying tactics were resented in Hokitika where a largely attended meeting passed resolutions with the object of having the provisions of the new Act put into operation without delay. This meeting also resolved "that in view of the enormous increases of the liabilities of the Education Board, amounting to £6,000, the Government be requested to send a special auditor to investigate such liabilities without delay." Further, "that the Government be requested to pay all salaries and other moneys to the various Committees until such time as the Subdivision Act is given effect to."

It need scarcely be stated that the continual disagreements between the Education Board and the Hokitika School Committee had a disturbing effect on the conduct of the schools. The Board, and consequently the Committee of all the schools in the district, were in financial distress; and there can be no doubt about this being the root cause of most of the unpleasantness that culminated in the passing of the Subdivision Act. Salaries remained unpaid over lengthy periods; houses for teachers were lacking, and the school rooms, during the winter months, were bitterly cold.

(8) The School Closed — No Fuel.

This last mentioned fact eventually necessitated the closing of the Hokitika school on two occasions. The headmaster, Mr Dixon, was most disturbed at the conditions under which the scholars were working, and expressed his indignation on more than one occasion. He wrote: "The want of fires this morning has been a positive cruelty to the children, and I desire to know what the Committee propose to do in the matter. It

admits of no further delay. One of two courses must be adopted—you must provide us with fires or close the school."

Mr Jack, Chairman of the School Committee, had already been sued for the amount due for fuel purchased during the past two years; but the Court had ruled that the Committee were not responsible. Mr Jack said, however, that he would obtain enough coal to last a week.

But if the headmaster was indignant with the treatment of the children, so also were the parents, who gave expression to their feelings at a public meeting held in May. This meeting resolved that "the steps taken by the Committee in closing the school under the circumstances, be approved by this meeting." Also "that the Committee lay their financial position before the Minister of Education with the view of soliciting the Government to defray the outstanding liabilities of the Committee." The action of the Committee in closing the school caused the Board to place an order through a third person for one ton of coal and one cord of wood. This procedure the Committee resented. The order, they said, should have been placed through them, and not through an outside person. It was a cat and dog sort of business. Anyhow, the school was closed with passing ceremony as the following shows:—Mr Smith, the Inspector, on instruction from the Education Board, removed keys of front doors and posted a notice which read: "Caution.—Any person forcing open any door or window or removing any lock, bolt or other fastening thereof, or in any way interfering with this building without the authority from its owners, that is, the Education Board of the District of Westland, will be prosecuted according to law. By order of the Board —John Smith, Inspector of Schools."

The notices were removed "By order of the Hokitika School Committee" and Mr Smith was gently ejected from the building. The children had, of course, been sent home. However, on June 20th, the Committee resolved that the school be re-opened, they having gained their object in calling attention to their grievances.

The year was certainly a hectic one for the Inspector, teachers, Committee and parents. No doubt, the children enjoyed it thoroughly since it presented them with lots of extra enjoyable holidays, and to cap all they had a happy prize-giving ceremony before the school broke up for the year. The order of merit was:—

Standard VI : George Perry; Arthur Benjamin; Marion Jack.

Standard V : Henry Nightingale; Arthur Dixon; Jessie Paterson.

Standard IV : Michael Goulston; Cecilia McMahon.

Standard III : Edith Perry and Archibald Jack (equal).

Standard II : Caroline Dixon; Elizabeth Chesney; Emil Tobien.

Standard I : Francis Sugden; Henry Thomson and Albert Oliver (equal).

Infant Class : Best Girl: Nellie Malfroy; Best Boy; Charles Crawford.

One thing remained to be done: and that was for the Hokitika School Committee to resolve to notify the Education Board that they would not recognise them after December 31st, 1883, and that was done.

YEAR 1884

The unsuccessful opposition of the northern members of the Education Board to the passing of "The Westland Education District Subdivision Act", and then their bold attempt to delay its operation created a state of confusion that lasted until the Minister made temporary provision for carrying on the schools, pending the election of new Education Boards.

New Boards could not, however, be elected until the Act had been amended in certain respects, and the consequent delay involved caused irritation and dissatisfaction in Hokitika.

A largely attended meeting held in the Town Hall in January, expressed regret that the Minister of Education had not taken steps to complete the election of new Boards; and that the Minister was still negotiating with the remaining portion of the Board of the defunct Educational District. The meeting resolved that "whether the Subdivision Act be brought into operation or not, the people of this district would positively decline to carry on educational matters in any shape or form, through the late Westland Board."

The majority of the old Board resolved to adhere to the position they had taken up and to continue to function; but their position became hopeless when the Attorney-General pronounced the Board to be a defunct body.

Events were now moving slowly, but surely, towards the desired goal of the Hokitika people, but patience was necessary.

The Westland Education District Subdivision Bill, after protracted argument, was at last introduced into and passed by the House of Assembly, but was further amended in the Upper House and emerged therefrom in a condition not quite satisfactory to Hokitika. However, a complete separation of North and South was effected.

(9) Bailiffs in the School.

If the passing of the Subdivision Act in its amended form was the principal event of the year, there were other happenings that may be described as interesting. Judgment was given for a claimant who sued for money owing to him by the old Board; and bailiffs actually took possession of the Hokitika State School. Many citizens were desirous of ejecting the intruders by force, but the Committee determined on the wiser course of seeing what steps the Government would take. Soon a Proclamation appeared in the press cautioning all unauthorised persons against interfering with Government property. This had the desired effect, and the school opened at the usual hour.

Early in the year, Mr Dixon wrote to the local press stating that there was more than £2,000 owing to the teachers in the district. This education farce, he wrote, has been played quite long enough, and in the interests of the scholars required an immediate change.

In March, the Committee resolved "that parents of children attending the State School be requested to pay 6d a month per child for the purpose of obtaining fuel for the school."

The Committee elected in January, 1883, remained in office during the whole of the year 1884. The members were: Messrs Jack, Hudson,



MR CHARLES ARTHUR
BATT

Headmaster, 1940-1942.

Mr Batt was prominent in educational circles in Wellington before coming to Hokitika. He left Hokitika for Auckland where his premature death occurred.

MR EDWARD MORRIS
STEVENS

Headmaster, 1943-1948.

Mr Stevens was formerly Headmaster of the Lawrence District High School. On leaving Hokitika, he became Headmaster of the Linwood Avenue School, Christchurch, a position he still holds. 



MR WILLIAM JOHN
JEFFERIES,

M.A., Dip. Ed.

Headmaster, 1948 -

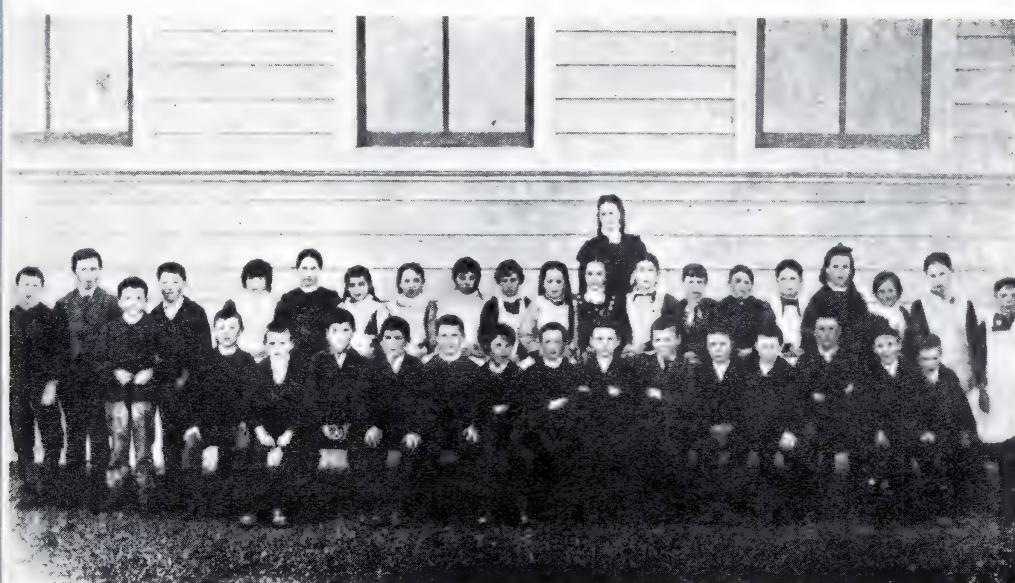


FIRST HOKITIKA STATE SCHOOL.—Commenced in 1876 and opened in 1877, it was maliciously destroyed by fire in the early morning of 7th January, 1886. It faced Haast Street, which was later incorporated in the school grounds and across the site of which the 1953 building is situated.





STAFF, 1884.—Miss Eva Ecclesfield, Miss Annie Batten, Miss Jane Andrew, Miss Laura Howe, Miss Esther Ward, Miss Ida Soffa, Mr E. B. Dixon, Mr R. T. Eleoate.



STANDARD 4, 1884.—Miss J. Andrew and her class.



Miss Ward's Class, 1884.

Parker, Perry, Nicholson, Rae and Rev. Laury. This was the Committee who bore the burden of the day anterior to the passing of the Subdivision Act and, consequently, earned the gratitude of the people.

Owing to the very unsettled conditions prevailing throughout the year, it was decided that no scholarship examination be held.

The following are the names of the scholars who were awarded prizes at the end of the year:

Standard VI: David Wilson; Edith Gibson.

Standard V : Ada Perry; Guido Schaeff.

Standard IV: James Ward; Edith Perry.

Standard III: Caroline Dixon; Robert Ecclesfield.

Standard II : Hugh Dixon; Louisa Ross.

Standard I : Alexander Somerville; Ellen Malfroy; Lily Henderson.

Attendance prizes were awarded to Edith Ecclesfield and Emma Goodfellow, neither of whom lost a day. The teaching staff at the close of the year comprised—Messrs Dixon and Eleoate; and the Misses Batten, Andrews, Ralfe, Ecclesfield, Howe, Ward, and Soffa.

The average daily attendance was 383; and there were 514 names on the roll.

YEAR 1885

The outgoing School Committee, in their report, trusted that the educational affairs of Westland were at last placed on a satisfactory basis, any they hoped that the new Committee would experience happier times. The Committee had had no trouble whatever with the management of the school, and there were no complaints by parents.

The new Committee consisted of Messrs Parker, Jack, Ramsay, Hudson, Malfroy, Park and Aitken. Mr Hudson was elected chairman.

The Premier, the Hon. R. Stout, after visiting the district early in the year and enquiring into educational affairs, expressed the view that the School Committees should raise funds for many of the purposes which the State was then providing for. Acting on this advice, the Committee made a further appeal to parents for monetary assistance, particularly for the purposes of procuring fuel during the winter months, and meeting the cost of employing a caretaker. The Committee also advised the headmaster that they could not supply school books in the future. The contributions by parents, however, fell far below reasonable expectations.

The number of scholars who sat for examination at the end of the year was 255, and of this number 200 passed.

About 400 scholars were present when the school broke up for the Christmas holidays. On this occasion Master George Perry and Miss Mabel Solomon advanced to the master's desk where Master Perry read an address to Mr Dixon, the headmaster, from the boys and girls of the Sixth Standard, asking his acceptance of a small gift. This was presented by Miss Solomon and consisted of a handsome pair of gold sleeve links and a silver thimble, the latter being intended for Miss Dixon. Mr Dixon, replying, said he felt this kind present from the pupils marked a feeling of sympathy with him in his work, and encouraged him in it. Several members of the Committee addressed the children and the chairman, Mr Hudson, returned thanks to the teachers.

When the distribution of prizes took place on the 21st December, a presentation by Master A. Jack and Miss Lily Holmes, on behalf of the teachers and children, was made to Mr Elcoate, the second master. The present, a beautiful piece of plate, was acknowledged by Mr Elcoate in feeling terms. The prizes were presented to:—

Standard VI: Ada Perry; M. Goulston; Miss G. Fletcher, with special prizes to S. Jago and A. Shannon.

Standard V : W. Berendt; J. Paterson; Edith Perry; Mabel Solomon.

Standard IV: R. Ecclesfield; J. Mauder; Miss C. Dixon; Miss A. Berendt.

Standard III: H. Trice; W. Shannon; Miss E. Goodfellow; Miss A. Ward.

Standard II : O. Crawford; G. FitzSimons; Agnes Addison; Ellen Malfroy.

Standard I : Jessie Wilson; A. Chesney; May McFarlane; J. Wilson.

Attendance prizes and sewing prizes were also given. Early in the year, the Board had awarded a scholarship to Earlam Gibson, of Hokitika. Thus ended a happy and successful school year.

YEAR 1886

(10) School Destroyed By Fire.

This year it is necessary to record the occurrence of the disastrous fire which destroyed the whole of the school buildings with the exception of the gymnasium. The fire broke out during the early hours of January 7th, and was first observed by night watchman Mr Allen, who gave the alarm by sounding the firebell at about 3 a.m.

As there was no water supply and hoses were not long enough to reach to the river, the building rapidly became a total loss. The school records, however, were saved from destruction.

The enquiry into the cause resulted in the verdict "that the late fire at the State School is a case of arson against some person or persons unknown." The jury recommended that the Government be requested to offer a substantial reward for the discovery of the originator of the fire.

It was, of course, necessary to acquire immediately the use of premises suitable to serve as school rooms pending the erection of a new building. The Board of Education were given the choice of several buildings and finally decided on three, viz., the Drill Hall, All Saints' School rooms, and Government House which had previously been secured by the High School Board for the purpose of establishing a High School.

A sub-committee of the Board consisting of Messrs Grimmond, Rae, Mueller and Rose, together with the School Committee, were responsible for these arrangements, and little time was lost in effecting necessary alterations to the premises chosen, and in re-opening the school in its temporary quarters.

The "West Coast Times" recommended the calling of a public meeting to strengthen the hands of the Board of Education in urging on the

Government the necessity for the early calling of tenders for a new building.

On January 13th, the Education Department telegraphed the Board asking that plans and specifications for a new school building be sent up for approval. It will thus be seen that all authorities concerned were anxious that the children should again be adequately and conveniently accommodated with the least possible delay.

The first intention was to have erected a building of the same architectural design as the old one; but early in March, the sub-committee of the Board of Education received alternative plans prepared by Mr Douval, architect to the South Canterbury Board, and decided to recommend the adoption of one of these, namely that of the Waimate School building; also to have the requisite number of plans and specifications prepared, and to invite alternative prices for a structure of brick, concrete, and wood with concrete foundations, in the four principal towns of the Colony.

The Board of Education confirmed the recommendations of its Sub-committee and resolved on the erection of a school to accommodate 500 scholars, to Mr Douval's design.

The five tenders received were opened at a meeting of the Board held on June 25th and it was resolved "that the amount of the lowest tender for brick and for wood (that of Mr Geo. Filiner, of Timaru) be forwarded to the Minister of Education, and to Messrs Seddon, Bevan and Bonar, with the strongest recommendation of this Board that the tender for the brick offices be accepted, as being the best and cheapest in the end."

It may here be stated that the tender submitted for a brick building was actually lower than that for wood on concrete foundations.

The recommendation of the Board of Education was finally accepted by the Department. The bricks for the building were made in Auckland and cost £2000. The foremen in charge of construction were Messrs McGregor and Ryan. The amount of the accepted tender was £3,187; and to this amount had to be added the cost of a patent system of heating—the Ashbury system—and the cost of furnishing, for which £411 was allowed by the Department of Education. The total cost of the new school was, therefore, approximately £4,000. As will be seen later, the contract was completed in less than twelve months; and the school was opened eighteen months after the destruction by fire of the original building.

A new School Committee, elected in May, consisted of Messrs Will, Hudson, Croft, Lindemann, McGregor, Chesney and Aitken. The outgoing Committee had continued in office for fifteen months and carried on under great financial difficulties. The Magistrate's Court had ruled that the Committee would have to pay the whole of their outstanding liabilities. That interest in Committee work should again begin to flag will be readily understood when members were held personally liable for any debts incurred on behalf of the school. Indeed one public meeting called for the purpose of electing a new school committee failed entirely to induce one of its number to offer his services.

It was plainly the duty of the public to come forward and assist the committees financially. Accordingly, a concert held in the Town Hall

for this purpose proved a moderate success and slightly eased the position.

In August, the School Committee decided to advertise the compulsory clauses of the Education Act for seven days, and at the expiration of that period to put them into force.

In his report on the scholarship examination, held in January, the Wellington Examiner stated that results were of an exceedingly satisfactory nature; not one candidate failed to come up to scholarship standard. W. J. Cran, of Hokitika, was awarded a scholarship, having topped the examination.

The ceremony of closing the school for the Christmas holidays was held at the Drill Hall. Mr Hudson said that the work had been carried on under great difficulties; but even the present temporary accommodation was better than in the old times. No prizes were awarded this year.

Difficulty was experienced in forming a School Committee for the year 1887-88, but eventually the following gentlemen were elected:—Messrs Hudson (elected chairman); Chesney, Will, Aitken, Croft, Brown and Jack.

CHAPTER IV

HOKITIKA "VICTORIA" SCHOOL: 1887-90

(1) The Formal Opening.

The question of taking steps to mark in a suitable manner the opening of the new school, now approaching completion had been discussed by the outgoing Committee. The then Mayor, Mr Tait, said he had taken steps to procure funds for the purpose but to the disgrace of the people of Hokitika, little response was made. The "Victoria" School was accordingly opened with little ceremony on the 22nd June, 1887, on the third day of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Celebrations.

Addresses were given by Mr J. R. Hudson, Chairman, and Messrs Grimmond, J. A. Bonar, J. Bevan, Rev. Gould, Richardson, Rae, E. B. Dixon, and Mr McLean Watt Jack. The building, the first brick public building in Westland, was declared open by the Mayor, Mr H. L. Michel, who named it the "Victoria" School. This name was never recognised officially, though locally it persisted until the disestablishment of the Westland Education Board in 1916.

After the examinations in October, the scholars of the fifth Standard presented Mr Eleoate with a photographic album as a token of their esteem, and when the school broke up for the Christmas holidays, Master A. Jack and Miss Ada Perry made a presentation on behalf of the Sixth class to Mr Dixon. Towards the end of the year, the school attendance improved considerably, and on one day 415 children were present, the total number on the roll being 460.

During the year a cottage was erected for the School Caretaker. The staff for the year comprised Messrs Dixon and Eleoate, Messrs Batten, Ecclesfield, and seven pupil teachers, Misses Ward, Howe, Soffa, Blair and Jack and Messrs Harrop and Nightingale.

YEAR 1888

This was a quiet year, indicative of steady, if unspectacular progress. The Education Board and School Committee had, however, to watch their steps in matters of expenditure, for it became evident early in the year that the Government had determined to tighten up on the education vote by reducing the amounts available to Boards and Committees by about ten per cent. The stage was reached when a Committee could not replace a pane of glass without first submitting an estimate of cost and receiving the sanction of the Board of Education.

The result of the scholarship examination, held in January, was: (1) Miss M. Tait, Hokitika; (2) A. Jack, Hokitika. After much discussion, the scholarship was awarded to Miss Tait.

The School Committee comprised Messrs Hudson, Chesney, Brown, Aitken, Croft, Jack and McGregor.

The teaching staff consisted of Mr Dixon (Headmaster), Mr Eleoate, Miss Batten and Miss Ecclesfield, assistant teachers; and the following pupil teachers: Misses Howe, Blair, Jack, Banks and Cran, and Messrs

Harrop and Nightingale. Shortly afterwards, Miss Aitken replaced Miss Howe.

The irregular attendance of many of the pupils was a matter of much concern to the Committee who decided to appoint a truant inspector to cope with the problem; and it may be stated that Inspector Folley's appointment had a beneficial effect.

It was during this year that the teaching of New Zealand geography was introduced into the schools.

YEARS 1889-1890

(2) Establishment of the District High School.

Early in 1889 the Inspector, in a report to the Board of Education, recommended that the tenure of scholarships should be extended to three years. The matter was considered by the Board in March and, during the discussion, the oft deferred question of the practicability of establishing a High School at Hokitika was debated. The necessity for a system of higher education had been widely recognised, but could Hokitika and district afford the cost of providing it? This question had troubled the Board of Governors of the Hokitika High School for several years with the result that they had been unable to accomplish anything. Now, however, the Westland Board of Education was interesting themselves in the subject of higher education, especially Messrs Bevan and Seddon, who warmly advocated the establishment of a High School. The Board, however, were moving a little too fast when, in March, they resolved "that at the end of the current year two scholarships of £25 each be established tenable only at the Hokitika High School and that, in future, monies obtained by grant for higher education be applied solely to the Hokitika High School". In April, the Board expressed doubts as to whether they had the power to provide scholarships for a Hokitika High School there being no such school established there. This retraction led to a discussion on the feasibility of establishing a District High School connected with the Victoria State School.

Nothing further eventuated until the Board of Governors, at a meeting held in May, 1890, resolved "that this Board recognises that its present sources of revenue are not sufficient to start a High School, but it considers it advisable to form a District High School in connection with the Victoria State School". This Board then appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs Holmes and McWhirter to confer with the Hokitika School Committee with a view to forming such a school.

The Board of Governors, further, resolved that steps be taken to legalise the formation of a District High School in terms of Section 55 of the Education Act.

The School Committee and Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors met in July and discussed the subject, the Committee intimating that they would give the matter careful consideration and make a decision in a few days.

The decision of the School Committee was against the establishment of a District High School in connection with the State School. The "West Coast Times" described the Committee meeting, which was held

in private, as a "hole and corner" business. Without doubt, the Hokitika School Committee were desirous of having a High School in the town, but they wanted a separate establishment; and Mr Dixon supported them in this.

The Board of Governors of the Hokitika High School had, however, made their position clear. They were aware of the urgent necessity for higher education facilities for the town and district; and they were very conscious of the fact that financial reasons had compelled them to postpone the provision of these facilities year after year. They could not afford the cost of the necessary staff of teachers, and buildings. They must act in co-operation and in conjunction with an established school, and preferably the Hokitika State School. If in this they were opposed by the Hokitika School Committee, then they would negotiate with the Kanieri Committee and, if unsuccessful, then with the Kumara Committee.

The Kanieri Committee welcomed the bare suggestion that a District High School be established in their area, although it did not enjoy an ideally central situation.

At this stage the Board of Education intervened by summoning a special meeting of the Board and inviting the Hokitika School Committee to attend. A joint meeting was accordingly held in August, 1890, the Board of Education being represented by Messrs Mueller, Jack, McWhirter and Will; and the School Committee by Messrs Hudson, Aitken, Croft, Chesney, Brown and McGregor. After preliminary consultations, the conference adjourned for fifteen minutes during which interval the School Committee met and resolved "that the Board of Education be requested to take the necessary steps to constitute the Hokitika State School and establish the same a District High School in terms of clause 55 of the Education Act of 1877".

The Board of Education then met, received the School Committee's application, and resolved to take steps as requested.

Thus, the Hokitika District High School was established at the close of 1890. Mr Dixon was to have undertaken the instruction of the scholars with the aid of the existing staff and an efficient extra teacher, but this was not to be. Inspector Smith had been appointed to Blenheim just before the school opened, and Mr Dixon succeeded to the Inspectorship. Hence it was necessary to advertise the position of Rector of the District High School, and Mr John Gammell, B.A. (Lon.) formerly Inspector to the Southland Board of Education, received the appointment.

In January of 1889 the Board of Education reported that the following pupil teachers had passed their respective examinations:—Class I: H. Nightingale (with credit); Class II: Miss Jack (with credit), and Miss Banks; Class III: Miss Cran. In the Scholarship Examination, Miss E. Perry, of Hokitika, came second.

The members of the School Committee elected in April were: Messrs Hudson, Croft, Aitken, Chesney, Brown, McGregor and Jack. At the end of the year there were 418 scholars on the roll, with an average daily attendance of 345.

YEAR 1890

There were several staff changes early in the year, Mr Eleoate, Miss Ecclesfield and Miss Banks resigning their positions. Mr G. K. Sinclair succeeded Mr Eleoate and Miss McLandress was appointed assistant teacher. Also, Miss Crawford and Miss Edith Perry were appointed pupil teachers.

In the pupil teachers' examination, Miss Mary Potts, of Woodstock, headed the list, whilst J. Davidson, Stafford, and Miss M. Jack, of Hokitika, were also successful.

Messrs Hudson, McGregor, Aitken, Chesney, Jack, Brown and Croft comprised the School Committee—the same Committee as for the previous year.

It was during this year that the late caretaker of the school, Mr Blair, brought an action against Mr Jack, a member of the School Committee, to recover the sum of £53 alleged to be due to him by the Hokitika School Committee for services rendered as caretaker. He lost his case and was required to pay costs amounting to £5.

The number of names on the roll was, at the end of the year, 377 compared with 418 the previous year.



SECOND HOKITIKA STATE SCHOOL.—Built on the site of the first building, it was opened on 22nd June, 1887, and named the "Victoria" School in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. In 1891, it was constituted a District High School.



STAFF, 1900.—Miss E. Clarke, Miss E. Benjamin, Miss E. Ward, Mr J. K. Sinclair, Mr H. G. Wake, Miss L. Michel, Miss M. E. Oswin, Miss D. Moore.



HIGH SCHOOL, 1901.—Back Row: Jeanne Learmont, Mary Wilher, Anna Brown, Janet Heinz, Mary Goudie, Dora Schramm, Nellie Coyle, Lennie Simpson, Veda Perry, Madeline Moore.

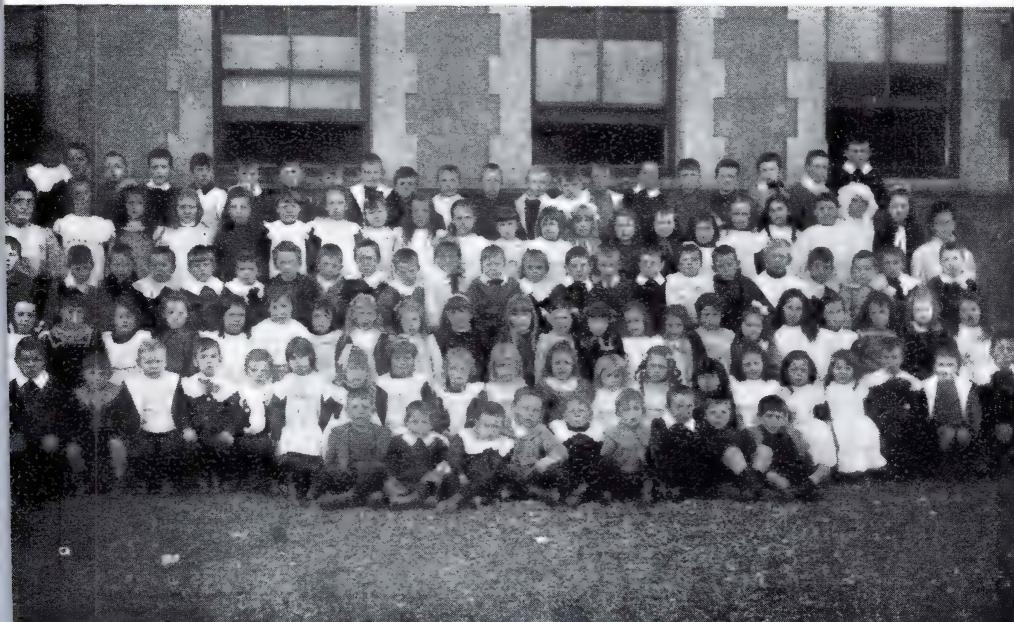
Front Row: George Rickard, Thomas Mitchell, Sant Caliari, Albert Bennett, John McKinnon, Noll Douglas, Edwin Northeroft, Stuart Ogilvie, Hugh Park, Garnet Perry, Sam Spence, William Fowler, David Lyons, David Renton, Dave Crawford, Garnet Michel.



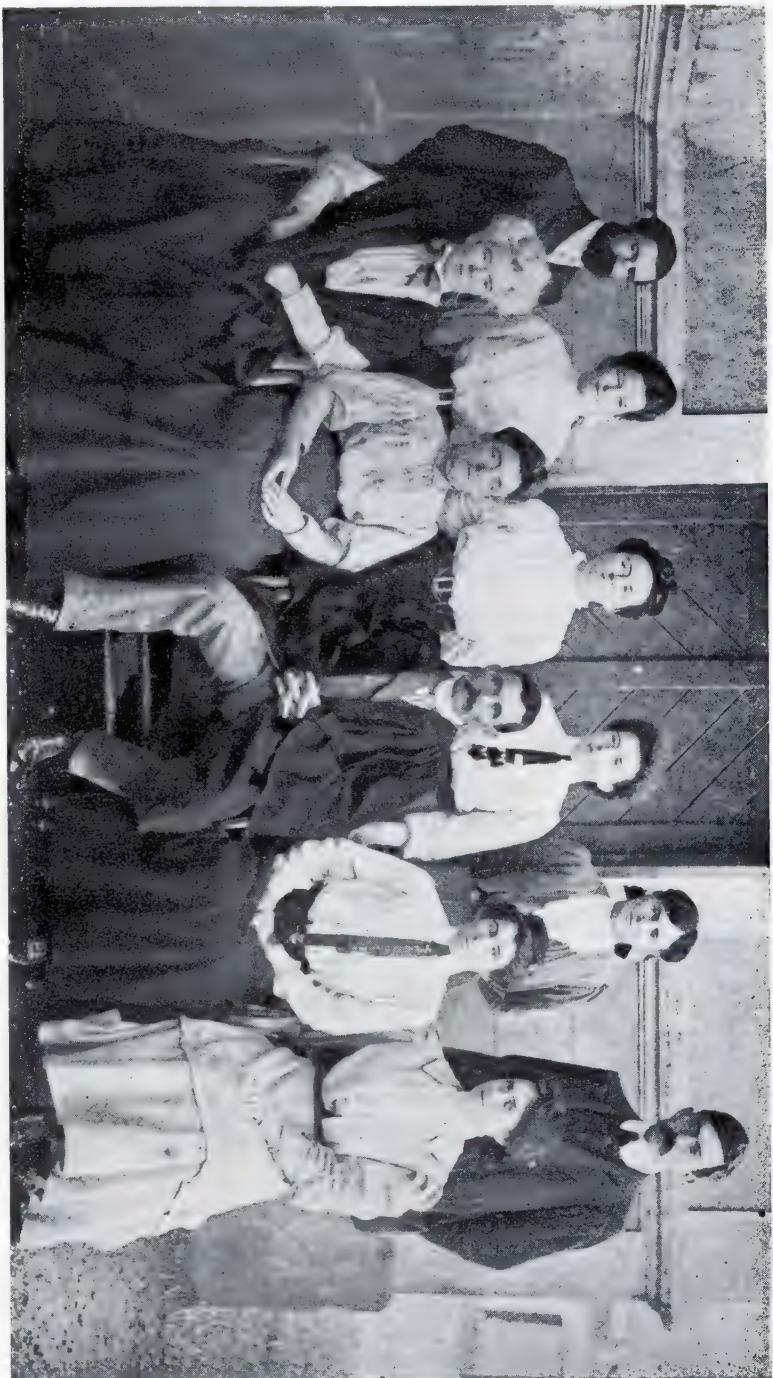
STAFF, 1901.—Miss E. Ward, Mr H. G. Wake, Miss L. Michel, Miss L. Martyn, Miss E. Clarke, Mr H. Williams, Miss M. E. Oswin, Miss M. Aitken.



STAFF, 1905.—Back Row: Mr B. H. Low, Miss J. R. Brown,
Miss E. M. Goudie, Mr H. Williams.
Front Row: Miss L. Martyn, Miss D. Moore, Mr H. G. Wake,
Miss E. Ward.



INFANTS, 1909.—Miss Ward and her Infant Class.

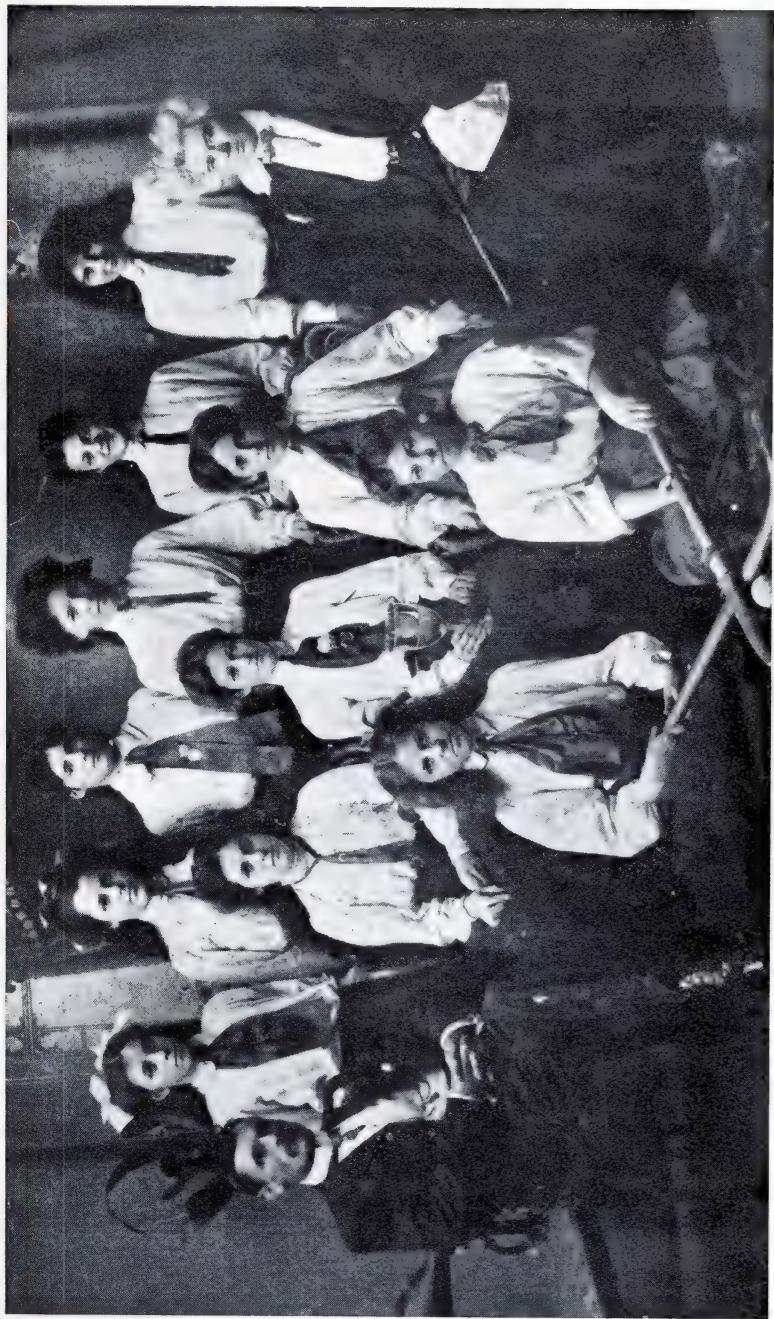


STAFF, 1909.—Standing: Mr H. Williams, Miss M. E. Wilson, Miss M. Henderson,

Miss J. G. Park, Miss M. Williams, Mr H. Barrett.

Sitting: Miss M. Oliver, Miss E. Ward, Mr H. G. Wake, Miss D. M. Moore,

Miss D. Ellis



HOCKEY TEAM, 1910.—Standing: I. Fraser, I. E. Wallace, M. Williams, A. Leamey, F. O. Wilson, A. Garner.

Sitting: Mr H. G. Wake, I. Sweeney, M. E. Wilson (captain), E. Breeze, Miss M. Oliver.

Front: E. Willetts, D. Pascoe.



Miss Ward and her Standard 5 and 6 Class, 1912.



STAFF, 1912.—Standing: Mr H. Williams, Miss E. Breeze,
Miss I. Fraser, Miss S. Forsythe, Miss E. Wallace.
Sitting: Miss M. Goudie, Miss M. Potts, Mr L. F. De Berry,
Miss E. Ward, Mr J. McGuigan.



STAFF, 1914.—Back: Messrs H. Williams, E. Boyd, T. Wylie.
Middle: Misses M. E. Wilson, R. E. Dorrington, T. Wallace,
M. Goudie, M. Henderson.
Front: Misses H. Mackie, I. Neilson, Mr L. F. de Berry,
Misses E. Ward, M. Potts.

BOARD SCHOLARS
From

THIS SCHOOL

GERHARD MUELLER	1879	R. ALEX. K. GOOD	1913
FRANCIS B. ALLEN	1880	JAS. W. C. DAVIDSON	1913
WALTER H. NELLEY	1881	THOMAS S. WILLIAMS	1913
ISABEL ECCLESFIELD	1882	BAYARD E. PARHAM	1914
EARLAM J. GIBSON	1884	G. PATRICK E. WILLIAMS	1914
WILLIAM J. CRAN	1885	ISOBEL M.AITKEN	1914
ALICE M. TAIT	1887	GLADYS B. PATERSON	1914
CHARLES E. CRAWFORD	1890	MAY C. HARROP	1914
FRANK BULL	1891	WALTER P. ALLARDYCE	1914
ROBERT J. CRAWFORD	1892		
JULIUS C. Malfroy	1894		
ALICE M. GREVILLE	1894		
EDGAR C. J. CLARKE	1895		
DORA SCHRAMM	1896		
EDITH C. CLARKE	1896		
EDWARD FITZGIBBON	1897		
EDMUND RENTON	1897		
FRANCIS R. Malfroy	1897		
THOMAS M. CRAWFORD	1897		
LAURA MARTYN	1897		
DAVID A. CRAWFORD	1899		
NOEL M. ALPINE DOUGLAS	1899		
MADELINE M. MOORE	1899		
FREDERICK W. SCHRAMM	1900		
FLORENCE B. GOUDIE	1901	LAWRENCE WOGAN	1903
CAROLINE L. RENTON	1901	MARY E. WILSON	1904
DOROTHY E. DAY	1902	HENRY S. HILLS	1905
FLORENCE NICOLSON	1902	WILLIAM H. HUGHES	1906
ALMA ROBECK	1903	ISABELLA E. WALLACE	1907
HENRY WILLIAMS	1905	J. H. ERLE SCHRODER	1908
MARGARET WILLIAMS	1906	ELIZA A. WILLIAMS	1910
eva M. GOUDIE	1906	ANGUS J. HARROP	1912
CHARLES F. WILLIAMS	1908	ALBERT SEEBECK	1913
JULIA V. LAKIN	1908	ERIC A. OSMERS	1914
J. F. CLEVELAND MOORE	1909	JOHN C. FORSYTH (1 ST IN NZ)	1915
IVY FRASER	1909	BAYARD E. PARHAM (3 RD IN NZ)	1915
JOHN R. DEAL	1910	JULES O. Malfroy	1915
ELIZA A. WILLIAMS	1911	PATRICK G. E. WILLIAMS	1915
EDGAR M. H. DAWSON	1911	AYLMER H. WINCHESTER	1915
THYRZA M. WALLACE	1912	P. ROSS WILSON (10 TH IN NZ)	1916
MARGARET J. HARCOURT	1913	ELsie H. WILSON	1917
ELIZ. PEARL FRASER			
SUSANNAH L. WALLACE			
WILFRID L. PARHAM			

JUNIOR
NATIONAL SCHOLARS

From

THIS SCHOOL

HONOURS BOARDS.—Photographed from inscriptions on
plaster walls in building used from 1887 to 1953.

CHAPTER V

HOKITIKA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

1891-1900

(1) First High School Year, 1891.

The first examination for scholarships tenable only at the Hokitika District High School was held in January. Inspector Smith, then stationed at Blenheim, was the examiner. Three scholarships were awarded and the successful candidates were: C. E. Crawford, Hokitika; F. W. Furkert, Ross; and R. W. Watson, Kumara. This was the year in which the District High School was opened, under Mr J. Gammell, B.A. (Lon.) as Rector, Mr Dixon having been appointed Secretary to the Board of Education and Inspector of Schools, in succession to Mr Smith.

The following is a complete list of the names of scholars who attended the District High School in the year it was opened: C. Crawford, F. Furkert, R. Watson, J. Wilson, P. Nicholson, H. Perry, P. Cran, J. Cran, A. Chesney, C. Cleary; and the following girls: A. Robinson, M. Holmes, M. McFarlane, R. Mandl and E. Ecclesfield.

The personnel of the School Committee was the same as for the previous year, save that Mr Thompson took the place of Mr Croft.

In March, Miss McLandress resigned and Mr G. McDonald was recommended as her successor.

It was reported that the average daily attendance for April was down to 270. A serious decline in the number on the school roll and in the average attendance had been apparent for some time; and this can, in a measure, be explained when it is stated that the population of Hokitika had decreased from 2,700 to 2,200 since the year 1886.

(2) Death of Mr Dixon.

Mr E. B. Dixon, Secretary and Inspector to the Westland Board of Education, died on the 9th May in his fifty-third year. Mr Dixon had been headmaster of the Hokitika State School for a period of fifteen years, and the loss sustained by his death was felt acutely by the people of Westland, whose interests he had served so faithfully and well. He rests in the Hokitika Cemetery beside his first wife who predeceased him in 1884.

In June, Mr J. Gammell, B.A. (Lon.) was chosen from amongst twenty applicants for the position of Secretary and Inspector, and in the same month Mr T. H. Gill, M.A., was appointed to succeed Mr Gammell as Rector of the District High School.

When the school broke up for the Christmas holidays, Mr Gill, on behalf of the teachers, made feeling reference to the former headmaster, Mr Dixon. He also clearly pointed out the advantage conferred on the district by the establishment of the High School.

(3) Progress, 1892-1900.

The scholarships for the year were won by Frank Bull, Hokitika; George Rodda, Stafford; and Thomas Rowe, Blue Spur. Two other candidates qualified for a scholarship on the results obtained.

The Board of Governors, Hokitika High School—Messrs Bonar, Bevan, McWhirter, Robinson, Holmes and Chesney—met and voted £60 for the purposes of the District High School. Similar votes were made in succeeding years.

Mr McDonald resigned, Mr A. Harrop was appointed assistant master, and Miss E. Benjamin was appointed pupil teacher, vice Miss Cran.

The incoming Committee were: Messrs Hudson, Smyth, Michel, Thompson, Aitken, Breeze, Bock, Croft and Benjamin—nine in all. The school closed for "Arbor" Day (August 4th) to enable the children to take part in tree planting.

Towards the end of the year there was evidence of much ill-feeling between the Board of Education and the School Committee. The principal cause was the unfavourable report submitted by the Inspector on the results of a recent examination at the District High School. The Board supported the Inspector, but the Committee stood by the Rector. The Board asked the Rector for an explanation, but the latter addressed his reply to the Committee, forwarding a copy only to the Board. The Committee then wrote to the Board asserting that the teaching of the Rector's class was highly satisfactory to them and intimated that if the Board was not satisfied they could take their High School elsewhere. To end the matter, the Committee received a sound thrashing from the "West Coast Times" in a well considered leading article dated January 4th, 1893.

YEAR 1893

The scholarship winners this year were: R. J. Crawford, Hokitika; J. C. Malfroy, Hokitika; Minnie Potts, Woodstock. An additional scholarship was awarded to Ada Dwyer, Blue Spur.

Advice was received in January of the success in the matriculation examination of R. W. Watson, a scholarship holder at the District High School, who thus became the first student of the school to pass this examination. He also passed the Junior Civil Service examination the same year.

Mr Gammell, who was retiring from his position of Inspector, wrote to the School Committee requesting permission to place a tablet in the school grounds inscribed with the names of all scholarship winners since 1877. The request was granted. This formed the basis for the Honours Boards placed on the walls of the school later on.

The newly appointed Inspector, Mr Morton, submitted his first report in October. There were 328 names on the roll; the order and tone of the school was praiseworthy, and the Rector and his assistants deserved credit for the results. In the Rector's class, four in the Senior and eight in the Junior division sat for examination. In the Senior, Masters Furkert, Rowe and Rodda all did well; while in the Junior division, Master Crawford deserved special mention. More than 96 per cent. of

the children who sat for examination passed—a credit to the school and believed to be a record.

The Inspector stated it would be of advantage if the High School course were brought more in accordance with that of the District High Schools of Otago and other districts, where fewer subjects were taken, and these not all compulsory. The course might be mapped to provide for the matriculation examination in the case of some pupils, at least. This recommendation was, later, agreed to.

At the end of the year, the attendance return showed a marked decrease in the number of children attending the school.

The Committee were so pleased with the Inspector's Report that they resolved to award merit and attendance prizes although two months earlier they had resolved not to do so, preferring to do something to ensure better payment of the caretaker and to provide additional books for the school library, which, under Mr Gill, was to become a notable feature of the school in the next few years.

YEAR 1894

The result of the scholarship examination held at the end of 1893 was: (1) Edward FitzGibbon, Goldsborough; (2) Johanna Crowley, Bluespur; (3) N. McIntosh, Kumara.

The result of the Matriculation and Junior Civil Service examinations reflected very creditably on the District High School. Three scholars, namely Fred Ferkert, George Rodda and Thomas Rowe, passed both examinations. In the Civil Service, Fred Ferkert topped the list for the whole Colony, while George Rodda was eighth. Both Ferkert and Rodda rose to very responsible positions in the Public Service at a later date. At a meeting of the School Committee, the chairman said that the staff deserved the thanks of the Committee for the successful results. The position was one the school had never previously attained. Mr Breeze moved that the Rector (Mr Gill) and staff be tendered a hearty vote of thanks for their labours. The "West Coast Times", commenting on the results, said: "In view of the number of competitors to find that the Hokitika District High School assumes pride of place will come with no small surprise, and should be exceedingly gratifying to those of the teaching staff responsible for this creditable result."

The Committee elected in April consisted of Messrs Crawford, Tait, Benjamin, Hudson, Breeze, Thompson, Williams, Barron and Jack. At their first meeting, attention was drawn to the falling off of attendance, this having dropped to below 300. During the past few years a police officer had carried out the duty of truant inspector at a small remuneration, but later, when the police were instructed to act without remuneration, there was some laxity on their part, with the result that the attendance dropped and as a consequence, the capitation grant was reduced considerably. In order to encourage attendance the School Committee instituted a system of presenting attendance prizes on a somewhat lavish scale. This, however, had no marked effect for even with truancy reduced to a minimum the school population was showing a decline commensurate with a general shrinkage of population throughout the district. This loss of population, though gradual, became serious

within a few years, when the grant available to the Board for all purposes fell to the extent of £500 per annum. This in turn, reacted unfavourably on the teaching staff, whose salaries and number were maintained at a shockingly low level.

“Arbor” Day, August 2nd, was a happy one for the school children. They assembled in the Town Hall where oranges and lollies were distributed, then formed procession with the band in attendance and marched to Cass Square where the Mayor made a speech and Miss F. Crawford, on behalf of the girls, and Master E. Northeroft, on behalf of the boys, planted trees which they named the “Victoria” and “Albert Edward” respectively. Then, before dispersing, all joined in singing the National Anthem. The Mayors of Greymouth, Kumara and Ross were present. The only fly in the ointment was that during the march from the Town Hall to the Square the boys would persist in singing “On the Ball”.

Prizes for the year were awarded after an entertainment held in the Town Hall on December 14th. The following is the prize list:—

Rector's Class:—Edward Fitzgibbon; Minnie Potts. Extra prizes to R. Crawford and Honora Crowley.

Standard VII: Edgar Clarke; Eva Perry. Extras to Edgar Clarke and Ernest Northeroft.

Standard VI: J. Renton, Meta O'Brien, Frances Crawford.

Standard V: Edmund Renton, Percy Pengelly, Edith Clarke, Emily Chilman.

Standard IV: Thos. Crawford, Ken Harper, Ethel O'Brien, Alice Addison.

Standard III: Fred Baker, Garnet Moore, Mary Goudie, Mabel Bust.

Standard II: Don Cameron, Alf Chilman, Annie Schramm, Madeline Moore.

Standard I: Herb Baker, William Wilson, Gertrude O'Brien, Hilda Goudie.

Several sewing prizes and very many attendance prizes were also given.

YEAR 1895

The scholarship examination resulted:—H. Linklater, Stafford; May Greville, Hokitika; E. Clarke, Hokitika; V. MacKay, Woodstock.

In April a move was made to admit to the High School all scholarship candidates who attained the necessary standard of proficiency at a fee of £2 10/0 per annum.

The outgoing School Committee reported that two pupils from the High School had matriculated; four had passed the Junior Civil Service, and two ex-pupils the Senior Civil Service examinations. Further, two pupils of the primary school had won Board Scholarships.

The new Committee comprised Messrs Hudson, Jack, Clarke, Heinz, Benjamin, Barron, Williams, Crawford and Thompson. Mr Hudson was elected chairman.

It would appear that the school children enjoyed themselves during the year in the celebration of “Arbor” Day; in the school excursions to and from Greymouth, and at entertainments provided for them at

holiday and prize-giving ceremonies. It is on record that in March nearly thirty railway cars brought 2,200 visitors from the Grey district to Hokitika, where a public welcome awaited them. Before the completion of the Hokitika-Greymouth railway such visits were, of course, impossible. Till then, Hokitika and Greymouth were self-contained communities, each with its own sphere of influence. The towns were rivals and even in sport met almost as hostile forces; but the railway in linking them together altered all that; friendliness, cordiality and mutual understanding and assistance were now the order of the day.

Presentation of Prizes

At the ceremony of presentation of prizes at the end of the year Mr Hudson, on behalf of the School Committee, and Mr McWhirter, chairman of the Education Board, addressed the children. Mr McWhirter dwelt upon the fact that serious complaints of truancy had been made and said it was a reflection upon the parents that with such educational facilities—a beautiful school and excellent staff of teachers—there should be any truancy at all.

The prizes were then awarded as follows:—

District High School:—3rd year: Ada Dwyer; 2nd year: Ed. Fitzgibbon; 1st year: H. Linklater.

Standard VII: Dora Schramm.

Standard VI : Boys—Ed. Renton; P. Pengelly.

Girls—Emily Chilman; Edith Clarke.

Standard V : Boys—T. Crawford; K. Harker.

Girls—Alice Addison; Ethel O'Brien.

Standard IV : Boys—G. Moore; A. Good.

Girls—Mary Goudie; Ruby Oliver.

Standard III : Boys—O. Chesney; D. Crawford.

Girls—Annie Schramm; Madeline Moore.

Standard II : Boys—W. Schramm; W. Wilson.

Girls—Hilda Goudie; Gertrude O'Brien.

Standard I : Boys—A. Heinz; A. Orr.

Girls—Kate Chilman; Louise Kroening.

Prizes were also given for sewing and good attendance.

YEAR 1896

Of the twelve candidates who sat for the scholarship examination, eight passed. The three most successful were E. Fitzgibbon, Hokitika; D. Sullivan, Stafford, and M. Houston, Woodstock. The remaining five competitors were entitled by regulation to attend the District High School at reduced fees.

At this time there were twenty-three scholars at the High School and it was pleasing to the governing body and the Rector to find the class appreciated by so large a number of advanced pupils from the primary school. The question arose as to whether pupils of the District High School were eligible to compete for the Board scholarships; but there appeared to be no objection at the time.

The school secured highly satisfactory results in the Junior Civil Service and Matriculation examinations, all candidates from the High School having passed.

The outgoing Committee, at the meeting of householders held in April reported that the pupil teachers had all passed their examinations; that four pupils of the High School had passed Matriculation, and that four had passed the Junior Civil Service examination.

Mr Hudson then moved the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet, which he had now done for fourteen years in succession. The school, he said, stood in a position which he believed was second to none in the Australian Colonies. Mr Northcroft moved that the retiring Committee be re-elected, and so Messrs Hudson, Clarke, Barron, Crawford, Thompson, Tait, Williams, Heinz and Benjamin formed the Committee for the ensuing year. Mr Hudson was again elected chairman.

During the year there were several school excursions to and from Hokitika; and at nearly every Committee meeting the question of truancy came up for discussion. The Truant Inspector, Constable Bennett, had done good work, but all his efforts could not cope with the losses due to the falling population—then 2,064, as well as the lack of interest of parents.

Presentation of Prizes

In December, the prizes for the year were distributed in a crowded theatre. The Mayor, Mr Michel, presided, and the chairman of the Education Board and of the School Committee, Messrs McWhirter and Hudson, respectively, were on the platform. At the conclusion of the preliminary concert, Mr McWhirter expressed pleasure in seeing so many happy, well-dressed children and was glad to be able to present the prizes, although he did not altogether believe in giving prizes to children attending State schools. He specially dwelt on the progress made at the District High School where Mr Gill taught the whole of the subjects. In other places, he said, different masters were provided for the separate subjects.

The Prize List was as follows:—

Rector's Class: 3rd year: Ed. Fitzgibbon; 2nd year: Ed. Clarke;
1st year: Ed. Renton, M. Houston and Meta O'Brien.

Class VII: Miss E. Chilman, Dux of School, received the medal presented by T. S. Watson, Esq.

Class VI : Girls—Alice Addison, Muriel Park.
Boys—M. Chesney, T. Crawford, C. Northcroft.

Class V : Girls—Mary Goudie, Violet Greville, Eliza Clarke.
Boys—G. Moore, F. Malfroy, A. Good.

Class IV : Girls—Elsie Paterson, Annie Schramm.
Boys—D. Cameron, O. Chesney, D. Crawford.

Class III : Girls—Hilda Goudie, Lena Good, Gertrude O'Brien.
Boys—W. Schramm, W. Wilson, E. Hamilton.

Class II : Girls—Kathrine Chilman, L. Kroening, M. Felix.
Boys—A. Heinz, R. Wogan, H. Lawry.

Class I : Girls—A. Robuck, Florence Goudie, Vera Greville.
Boys—G. Wilson, R. McMillan.

Very many prizes were also given for sewing and for good attendance.

YEAR 1897

Of the twelve candidates who presented themselves for the Scholarship examination the most successful were Dora Schramm, Hokitika; George Linklater, Stafford; and Edith Clarke, Hokitika. Five others qualified to attend the District High School, at reduced fees.

In February, there were twenty-six scholars attending the High School, including seven scholarship winners.

The retiring School Committee reported there had not been any changes in the staff during the year, save those arising through the Regulations of the Board which necessitated the retirement of Miss Benjamin, a fourth year pupil teacher, and the appointment of Miss D. Moore to a first year position. A system of military drill had been established under the supervision of Sergeant-Major Bonning. One householder, it was stated, did not approve of the old Committee, they, he alleged having on two occasions closed the school to enable the children to attend the races.

The Committee entrusted with the welfare of the school for the ensuing year comprised Messrs Tait, Clarke, Rev. Ginger, Crawford, Heinz, Hudson, Benjamin, Thompson and Williams. The only new committee man was the Rev. Mr Ginger.

(4) The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

As the date of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was drawing near, a School Carnival Committee was appointed to arrange for the children's treat. The work was entrusted to Miss Batten and Messrs Toomey, Hudson, Crawford, Gill and the Mayor. In June this Committee resolved to call tenders for the supply of 200 lbs of cake, 700 large buns, and 1 cwt. of lollies. This they did; and then it occurred to them that any kind and quality of cake and bun might be offered, and so the tenders received were returned unopened and fresh ones invited with the stipulations that the cake was to cost 9d per lb and the buns 1/3 per dozen, and tenderers were to forward samples of the goods they proposed to supply. Eventually, the tender of Mr H. Preston was accepted.

As well as sharing in the "treat," each child received a medal in commemoration of the important event—one thousand medals were distributed. June 21st, 22nd and 23rd were declared public holidays throughout the Colony. In Hokitika, the school children participated in most of the festivities. A pleasant function at the Victoria School was the unveiling of three memorial tablets inset in the wall above the office windows on the school frontage. Then there was the very busy "Bee" in the school for the purpose of cutting up the cake and sandwiches. On the 22nd there was a fireworks display, and "Britannia" and Her Boys took part in a grand procession. There was also a monster procession to Cass Square where loyal addresses were delivered and the Volunteers fired a Royal Salute. There were carnival sports, bonfires, a fancy dress



SECONDARY CLASSES
HOKITIKA
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
HONOURS LIST

FRED W. FURKERT 1 ST	JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE	1893
GEORGE C. RODDA 8 TH	" " "	1893
ROBERT J. CRAWFORD 17 TH	" " "	1895
JULIUS C. MALFROY 15 TH	" " "	1895
EDWARD J. FITZGIBBON 15 TH	" " "	1897
PASSED SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE & JUNIOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP WITH CREDIT		
HAMILTON DOUGLAS 13 TH	JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE	1899
DORA M. SCHRAMM 15 TH	" " "	1900
DAVID E. CRAWFORD 3 RD	" " "	1901
LAWRENCE W. WOGAN 8 TH	" " "	1905
DONALD ERIC MACKAY 4 TH	" " "	1906
ALEXANDER WATTERS 15 TH	" " "	1906
J. HERLE SCHRODER 11 TH	" " "	1911
PASSED JUNIOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP WITH CREDIT		
DAVID J. CRUICKSHANK 8 TH	JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE	1912
FRANCES P. EVENDEN 17 TH	" " "	1912
JOHN C. FORSYTH 1 ST	JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP	1915
BAYARD E. PARHAM 5 TH	" " "	1915
ISOBEL M. AITKEN WON SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP		1916
JOHN C. FORSYTH	" " "	1916
BAYARD E. V. PARHAM	" " "	1916
PATRICK G. E. WILLIAMS	" " "	1916
HENRY J. SEEBECK	" " "	1917
WILLIAM M. VALENTINE	" " "	1918
ELSIE H. WILSON	" " "	1919
RUBY MEYER	JUNIOR	1921
RUBY MEYER	SENIOR	1923
ROBINA ANDERSON	JUNIOR	1923
HERBERT M. SWEENEY	SENIOR	1924
WILLIAM RIDLAND	JUNIOR	1923
ROBINA E. ANDERSON	SENIOR	1925
ALAN T. SHANNON	JUNIOR	1927
EDWIN E. RICHARDS	JUNIOR	1928

HONOURS BOARDS.—Photographed from inscriptions on plaster walls in building used from 1887 to 1953.



FIRST XV, 1920.

Staff: Messrs T. McCullough, J. Brunton (Head.), J. Niven.



INFANT DEPARTMENT

This building was opened in 1938 on a new site opposite the main school.



MISS MARY E. WILSON

Infant Mistress, 1916-1945.



MISS ANN P. DUFF

Secondary Assistant Mistress,
1928-1949.

1928



MISS EDNA I. DALE

Senior Primary Mistress,
1930-1945.



Jubilee Celebrations, 1937.



Jubilee Celebrations, 1937.

ball, memorial services accompanied by the ringing of bells, and other forms of rejoicings to mark the loyalty of the subjects of a great Queen who had then ruled over the great British Empire for a period of sixty years.

So far, no finality had been reached in the matter of establishing a Technical School at Hokitika, although one had been opened at Kumara. The nervousness that prevailed before the opening of the District High School was again evident; fear that the work of the primary school would be neglected if other branches were opened.

Mr Gill expressed the view that Technical Education should be of the kind most suitable to the district; that its direction should be intellectual rather than mechanical, and that it should not be allowed to interfere with primary education, but should be carried out in continuation schools. At the school examinations held towards the end of the year, 98 per cent. of the scholars examined passed. Mr Gill and his staff were commended by the School Committee on the satisfactory results. During the year, the High School Board of Governors were able to grant the sum of £72 to the Education Board for the District High School.

Distribution of Prizes

The Princess Theatre was filled with pupils, teachers, parents and friends on the occasion of the distribution of prizes for the year. The prize list was as follows:—

Rector's Class—3rd Year: Thomas Learmont; 2nd Year: Eva Perry; Malcolm Houston; 1st Year: Flora Schramm; George Linklater.
Class VII: Girls—Martha Little.
Boys—Thomas Crawford.
Class VI : Girls—Mary Goudie; Vida Perry.
Boys—Frank Malfroy; Garnet Moore.
Class V : Girls—Annie Schramm; Julia Heinz.
Boys—David Crawford; Oswald Chesney.
Class IV : Girls—Hilda Goudie; Lena Good.
Boys—William Schramm; Edwin Hamilton.
Class III : Girl—Kathleen Chilman.
Boys—Albert Heinz; Rupert Wogan.
Class II : Girls—Florence Goudie; Janie Harvey.
Boys—George Wilson; Robert McMillan.
Class I : Girls—Johanna Eggeling; Olive Davies.
Boys—James Aitken; Edward Eggeling.

YEAR 1898

Twenty-nine candidates sat for the scholarship examination held at the end of 1897. A feature of this examination was the keenness of the competition, only eight marks separating the 1st and 3rd on the list, and 10 marks the 6th from the 10th. Thirteen qualified to attend the District High School at reduced fees, if not scholarship holders. The successful candidates were: E. Renton, Hokitika; Emily Zeigler, Kumara;

F. Malfroy, Hokitika; Kate McIntosh, Kumara; T. Crawford, Hokitika; T. Mitchell, Stafford; Kate Coady, Stafford; Laura Martyn, Hokitika. Five scholarships were awarded, and two at reduced rates. Of the thirteen pupil teachers under the Board, nine sat for examination, and of these Mabel Greville passed with credit.

E. J. Fitzgibbon, E. C. Clarke and T. V. MacKay were successful in the matriculation examination, and five scholars of the High School passed the Junior Civil Service. E. Fitzgibbon, of the Hokitika District High School, topped the list for the Colony in the Junior Civil Service and passed the Senior examination with distinction. This was the second time the school had been ahead of the rest of the Colony in the Junior Civil Service examination, a fact that must have been very gratifying to Mr Gill, the Rector. Fitzgibbon also passed the University Junior Scholarship examination with distinction, but was not fortunate in securing a scholarship.

In April, the outgoing School Committee reported that Miss Orr had retired and Miss Schramm had been appointed pupil teacher. Mr Hudson said the High School now occupied the proud position of being the first in the Colony. The new Committee consisted of Messrs Thompson, Bust, Bock, Heinz, Benjamin, Rev. Ginger, Clarke and Breeze.

As there were now twenty-nine scholars attending the High School, the Rector made application for assistance in order to prevent the work of the primary school suffering. The result was that an additional assistant mistress—Miss Jack—was appointed, and the services of one pupil teacher were dispensed with.

In October, the Inspector reported that general progress at the primary school had been very good, only 14 of the 168 pupils examined having failed, while 94 had passed with credit.

The results of the drawing examination held in connection with the Wellington Technical School were especially good. Hokitika presented 42 pupils who sat for 45 papers. All were successful and half the number were "good" or "excellent". The branches of the subject included freehand, model, geometrical and scale drawing.

Reporting on the District High School, the Inspector stated that this class now consisted of 21 pupils and that good progress had been made though no pupils presented themselves for matriculation.

It will be interesting to record the names of the teaching staff at this time. They were:—Mr Gill, Rector; Mr Sinclair, Miss Batten, Miss Jack, Miss Ward, Miss Greville, Miss McFarlane, and pupil teacher Miss Moore. Within a few months Miss Edith Clarke succeeded Miss McFarlane.

Towards the end of the year Mr McWhirter, chairman of the Board of Education, again urged that manual training and instruction should be undertaken in Hokitika. "It was a disgrace to the school that such a thing had not been taken in hand long ago. It was for the Board to consider if the Committee did not undertake the duty whether they should not do it themselves."

During the year, the children enjoyed themselves in the celebration of "Arbor" Day which was declared a school holiday, and in a picnic to Greymouth, in which 1500 participated.

In December, it was reported that Mr Gill, Rector of the District High School, had been appointed by the Wellington Board of Education to the position of Headmaster of the Newtown School, the largest school at that time in the city of Wellington, having an attendance of 600 children.

At the breaking up and presentation of prizes ceremony, in December, Mr Bonar presented the prizes; and Mr Hudson, chairman of the School Committee, referred to the approaching departure of Mr Gill who had been with them for more than seven years, and who had done grand work in the school. In the community, Mr Gill had set a splendid example, and his departure would be a great loss.

In reply to Mr Hudson, Mr Gill hoped he had turned out good men and women, which was infinitely preferable to a high percentage of passes.

A presentation was then made to Mr Gill on behalf of the students of the High School by Miss Muriel Park and Master V. MacKay.

Mr Bonar could not let the occasion pass without paying his tribute to the value of Mr Gill's services, and expressing regret at the loss they would sustain from his departure.

The Prize List was as follows:—

Rector's Class: Boy—Edmund Renton; Girl—Edith Clarke.

Class VII: Garnet Moore.

Class VI: Boy—David Crawford; Girl—Annie Schramm.

Class V: Boy—William Schramm; Girl—Hilda Goudie.

Class IV: Boy—Albert Heinz; Girl—Lydia Wilson.

Class III: Boy—George Wilson; Girl—Katie Barton.

Class II: Boy—James Aitken; Girl—Annie Eggeling.

Class I: Boy—Alex Rae; Girl—Margaret Goudie.

Drawing certificates from the Technical School, Wellington, were awarded, as well as many attendance prizes.

YEAR 1899

The Inspector's Report on the scholarship examination based on last year's school work, was very satisfactory. Thirty-four candidates sat and of these, twenty-five qualified for scholarships, which was the best result yet secured. The three first places went to Stafford, where Mr H. Williams was headmaster.

Thomas Mitchell, Kate Coady, E'len Coyde, Garnet Moore and David Crawford topped the Hokitika list of candidates. Thomas Mitchell also won a scholarship offered by Victoria College, Wellington.

It was also reported that R. Crawford, J. Malfroy, O. Bowling, T. Learmont and T. MacKay had passed the Senior Civil Service examination; and M. Sarglidich, M. Houston, L. Daly and G. Linklater, the Junior.

Twenty applications were received for the position of Rector of the Hokitika District High School and, of these, that of Mr Wake, B.A., was considered the most suitable. Mr Wake, therefore, succeeded Mr Gill as Rector, and commenced duty on March 1st. In the meantime, Mr Sinclair was in charge of the school without extra remuneration.

In February the School Commissioners made a grant of £200 to the High School Board of Governors, who were, therefore, in a position to

assist the Board of Education by providing additional funds for High School purposes.

The outgoing School Committee reported several changes in the staff during the past year, and that one pupil teacher had been lost through the attendance falling short of the number of scholars required by the regulations.

The following gentlemen were elected the new Committee:—Messrs Clarke (chairman), Breeze, Hudson, Keller, Bock, Thompson, Wells, Tait and Lloyd.

In May, news was received of the death in Australia of Mr Elcoate, a former very popular and efficient teacher at the Hokitika school. His wife predeceased him in 1889 while he was on the Hokitika school staff and is interred in the Hokitika cemetery next to the grave of Mr and Mrs Dixon.

Owing to the financial stringency, Hokitika lost the services of one assistant mistress and one pupil teacher. The School Committee strongly opposed any reduction in staff, holding the view that the efficiency of the primary school should be maintained, even if the High School had to go. By this time, the number of pupils on the roll had dropped to 266. Further changes in the staff were necessitated by the retirement of Miss Batton, first assistant mistress.

The results of the examinations of the State School were phenomenally good, there being but one failure. This was a record. The results of the High School examinations were also exceedingly good.

At the close of the year, presentations were made to Miss Batten by Miss Lydia Wilson and Miss Vida Perry, on behalf of the children; and by Mr Wake, on behalf of the teachers.

Presentation of Prizes

In asking the Mayor, Mr Michel, to present the prizes for the year, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Clarke, took occasion to congratulate the parents and compliment the teachers and children on the results of the year's work, which had exceeded all their previous results.

The prize list was as follows:—

HIGH SCHOOL: 26 pupils were examined. **Dux of High School:** Lucy Michel.

Middle Form: F. Malfroy, Dorothy Schramm, Jeannie Learmont, W. Comport.

Lower Form: Annie Schramm, N. Douglas, Kate Coady, T. Mitchell. **Special prize for mathematics to Jeannie Learmont.**

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Class VII: **Dux of School:** Madeline Moore, **Merit:** David Renton.

Class VI: Hilda Goudie; Lena Good; M. Schramm; Marion Davies.

Class V: Lydia Wilson; A. Heinz; Caroline Renton; W. Moore.

Class IV: Florence Goudie; Phyllis Barton; Alma Roebeck; Linda Smith; R. McMillan.

Class III: Annie Eggeling; Linda Henderson; E. Eggeling; J. Aitken.

Class II : Ruby Atkinson; Margaret Goudie; Dorothea Roebeck; Joyce Michel.

Class I : Emma Harvey; Bessie Johnson; Marion Moore; A. Barton.

Sewing and attendance prizes were also presented, and a number of drawing prizes were distributed.

The results of the scholarship, Civil Service, and other examinations held at the end of the year and published early in 1900 were as follows: Of the twenty-six candidates who sat for the scholarship examination, D. Crawford, Hokitika; N. Douglas, Hokitika; Eleanor Simpson, Blue Spur; and Madeline Moore, Hokitika, were the most successful.

The Hokitika successes in the Junior Civil Service examination were H. Douglas, T. Crawford, P. Feeney, W. Comport, Margaret Dae, J. McKinnon, L. Daly, Jeannie Learmont, Martha Little, Olive Beck, J. Davies and E. MacDonald.

The examiner of candidates for the Queen's Scholarship in connection with Victoria College, Wellington, was very severe on the preparation of geography by those examined. A high proportion of the candidates were unable to secure even 33 per cent. in this subject. From his general condemnation the examiner excluded the papers of eight candidates who sat at Hokitika. Had all been as good as these eight, he said, he would have had little to say but praise. David Crawford, who was first in the scholarship examination, secured eighth place and honourable mention in the examination for the Queen's Scholarship.

YEAR 1900

It may be mentioned here that the opening of the year 1900 saw an improvement in the financial state of the Colony; and in this Westland was to share.

The retiring School Committee reported in April that the school had maintained its efficiency during the year, and discipline was excellent. There were 32 pupils attending the High School (28 at the end of 1900) showing that its popularity was increasing. There had been several staff changes. Miss Ward had succeeded Miss Batten as Headmistress; Miss Benjamin had been appointed an assistant mistress, and Miss L. Michel pupil teacher, while Misses Hodgon, Greville and Jack had resigned.

The Committee of 1900 was composed of Messrs Clarke, Richards, Hudson, King, Bock, Wells, Thompson and Schramm.

In June, the Board decided to provide flag poles for the seven principal schools, and the School Committee were advised that the Government intended to have struck a bronze medal in commemoration of the proclamation of peace in South Africa and that these medals would be sold to School Committees at one shilling per dozen. Another twelve months were, however, to elapse before peace was finally declared. The Education Department also arranged for the manufacture in New Zealand of a flag to be presented to each public school in the Colony, and £15,000 was voted by Parliament for this purpose.

In October, the High School Board of Governors—Messrs McWhirter, Chesney, Holmes, Clarke, Michel and Bonar—voted a subsidy of £100 to the Education Board.

Very many prizes were given at the end of the year, but all were “attendance” prizes save one, presented by Mr Heinz for drawing, and this was awarded to Garnet Good.

Twenty-four candidates competed in the scholarship examination, and of these, 17 qualified under the regulations, and were therefore entitled to attend the District High School at half fees. The scholarship winners were W. Schramm, Eveline Dyer, and Jane Brown. The Hokitika candidates who qualified were W. Wilson, Hilda Goudie, Ruth Day, Ken Wallace, A. Heinz, and W. Moore. Three High School scholars passed the matriculation examination, viz Dora Schramm, Thomas Mitchell, and John McKinnon. In the pupil teachers’ examination, Miss Edith Clarke and Miss Lucy Michel passed with credit. At the end of the year, Miss Oswin was appointed Secondary Assistant Mistress; Miss Benjamin resigned and was succeeded by Miss Martyn.

(5) The Close of the Century.

With the close of the nineteenth century came the close of the Victorian era, for the great Queen died in 1901. The year 1900 was, for the British Empire, one of strife and sorrow, occasioned by the Boer War; but the Victorian era was, on the whole, one of peace and prosperity accompanied by great social changes.

Among these changes was the movement to provide every child with an elementary education which, for the majority of parents of Victorian days, consisted of a working knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic, and needlework for girls. But experience having proved that this was not enough, the school curriculum was extended to include such subjects as drawing, geography, elementary science and history. Then, if at the end of some seven or eight years of continuous schooling, a scholar was able to show, by examination, a general proficiency in the set subjects, he was regarded as one who had received a sound elementary education.

Teachers generally were poorly paid. Pupil teachers had to undergo four years of training, commencing at £15 per annum, rising to £48 in their fourth year. An examination each year was prepared for by morning classes commencing at 8 or 8.30 a.m. and taken by the Headmaster. Subjects such as English, Latin, Euclid, History, School Method and Physiology were prepared for. Success in the examinations and suitability being apparent, the trainee would gain a trained teacher’s Certificate, but further examinations had to be prepared for to gain advancement.

There still remain some who treasure the memory of Inspector Smith, of Mr Dixon, of Mr Gammell; and more who remember with gratitude Mr Gill, Inspector Morton and Mr Wake. These were the old Masters and Inspectors of the Hokitika State School during the last century. All were men of high attainment; all turned out fine scholars. Dixon was slender, rather delicate and temperamental; Gammell, broad and powerful, could depend on a glance and preserve discipline. Gill was

a short man, quick in action, and personally interested in all his boys. He could referee a football match as well as produce outstanding scholars. Wake came later, just before the close of the century, and from the first showed conspicuous ability.

Of the old inspectors, Mr Smith was a man apart. He it was who steered the National and State systems of Education in Westland and, by example, earned the respect of parents and pupils.

With the old masters corporal punishment was an accepted form of government although applied sparingly by the Heads of the Hokitika School.

No excuse, it is hoped, will be necessary for referring so freely to the old masters, inspectors, and citizens of Hokitika who helped to advance the education movement in Westland, or for mentioning so many names of scholars who competed successfully in the school examinations. Many of these old scholars will attend the opening of the Third Hokitika State School buildings, and the hope is here expressed that the experiences of happy school days will be recounted, that old acquaintances will be renewed, that many a loving thought will extend out to the absent old familiar faces.

CHAPTER VI

HOKITIKA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

1901-1953

The story of the school from 1901 to 1953 is one of development and progress on the solid foundations laid during the years of struggle and consolidation from 1875 to 1900. Few spectacular incidents have occurred. Under the Rectorship of Mr H. G. Wake, the high scholastic standing already achieved was further established, his remarkable efficiency coupled with outstanding teaching ability resulting in splendid results in examinations throughout the school. The growth of the High School roll necessitated the appointment in 1900 of a special assistant in the person of Miss M. E. Oswin, B.A., and on her resignation in 1902, Mr B. H. Low, B.A., was appointed. Prior to this, the Rector, assisted by Miss E. Ward, of the Primary Staff, had taught the High School classes. The appointment of a second Secondary Assistant in the person of Miss Margaret Olliver, M.A., M.Sc., in 1906, established the High School much as it has developed today with six or more assistants, though the Rector continued to take some classes.

A woodwork class for boys was established in September, 1903, with Mr W. R. Goodrick as Instructor, the classes being held after normal school hours. In 1905 a Cookery Room was opened and girls were given instruction in cookery, laundry work and dressmaking. By 1919 the need for better facilities became pressing, and a woodwork room was added to the cookery block. In July, 1923, the Greymouth Technical High School Board took over control of the Manual Training Centre, and this arrangement continued until the Canterbury Education Board assumed control at the beginning of 1951. Day classes for High School and Primary pupils of the district, together with evening classes in woodwork and dressmaking for adults, have been conducted for many years.

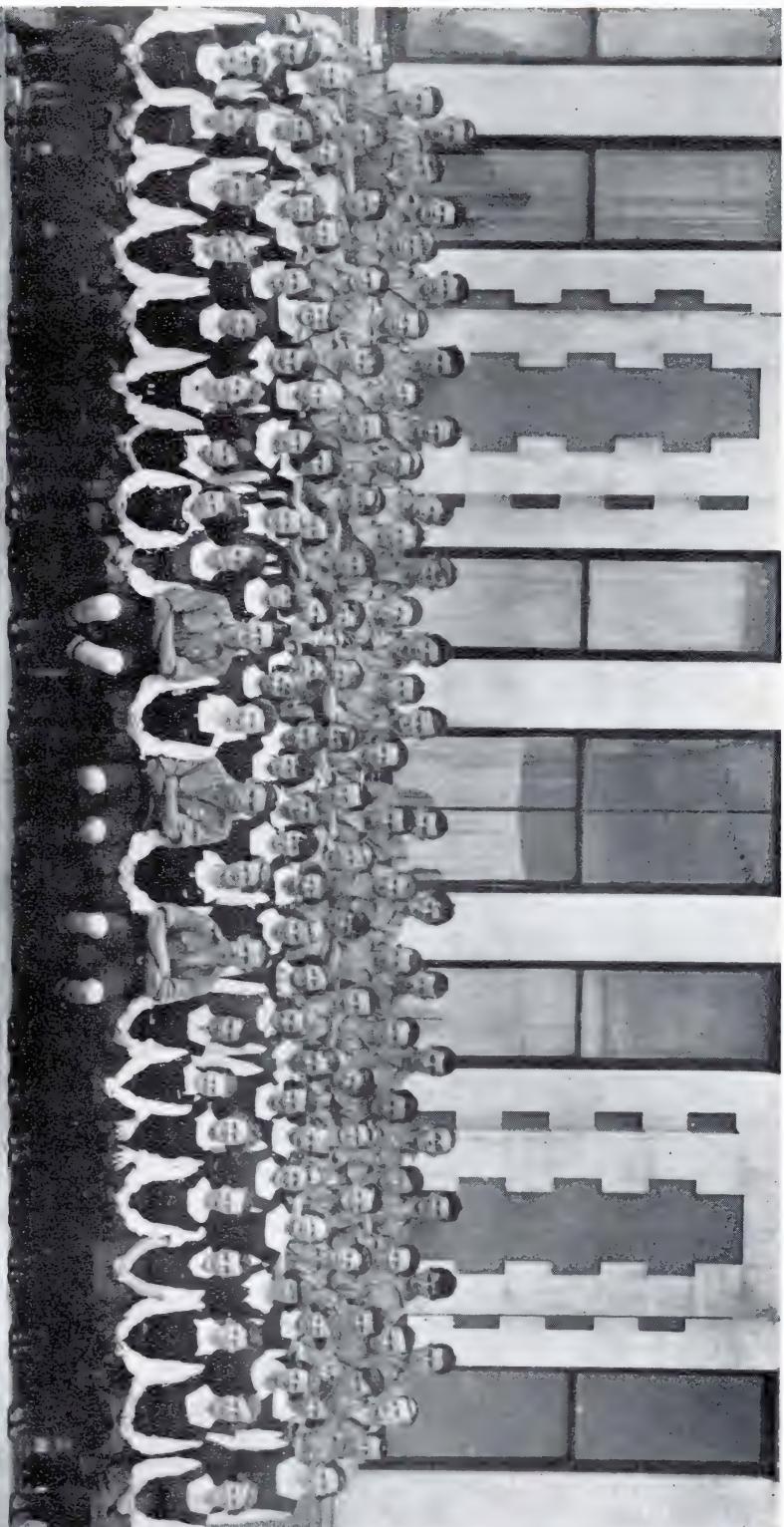
School sport, with the growth of the High School, received more attention, the Secondary girls' hockey team founded in 1904 enhancing the school by its outstanding success on the Coast for many years. The laying down of a tennis court at the school in 1910 with monies collected by the pupils for the purpose, recognised the importance of organised games. The end of Mr Wake's term saw the school consolidated in its organisation.

Headmasters following Mr Wake have been:—

- 1911—1918 Mr Leonard F. de Berry, M.A.
- 1918—1920 Mr John Brunton, M.A.
- 1921—1924 Mr Thomas Irvine, M.A.
- 1925—1930 Mr Ernest Partridge, M.A.
- 1930—1936 Mr James L. Menzies.
- 1936—1940 Mr John G. Johnston, M.Com.
- 1940—1942 Mr Charles A. Batt.
- 1943—1948 Mr Edward M. Stevens.
- 1948— Mr William J. Jefferies, M.A., Dip. Ed.



Jubilee Celebrations — 1937.

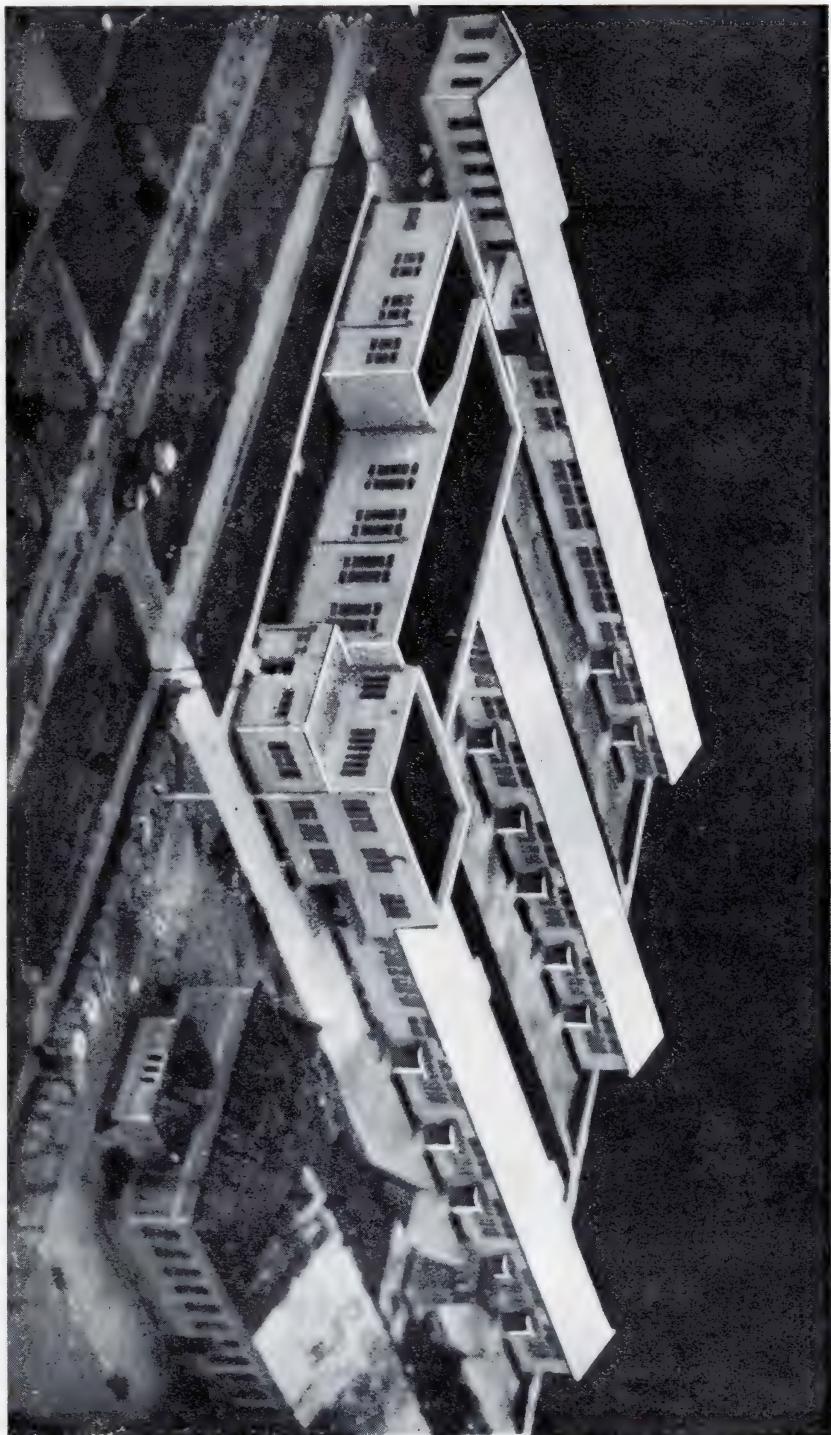


High School Group, 1936.



STAFF, 1953.—Seated (L. to R.): Mr A. Nicol, Mr D. A. Deller, Miss J. E. Dixon, Miss M. C. Cambridge, Mr W. J. Jefferies (H.M.), Mr F. A. Bartrop, Mr M. G. N. Watson, Mrs A. M. Richards, Nurse W. M. Carter. Second Row: Mr S. Hunter, Miss C. E. Reynish, Miss N. E. Paterson (Speech), Mrs V. Dent, Mrs T. D. Wilson (Part-time Commercial), Mrs C. M. Undrill, Mrs D. H. Hunter (Clerical Asst.), Mrs E. E. Stevenson (Relg.), Mrs E. Butland (Part-time Evening Classes), Nurse N. A. Crowley, Nurse J. M. O. Rose. Back Row: Mr L. M. Brown, Mr G. C. Berendt, Mr G. Kennedy, Mr A. J. Mangels, Mr B. R. MacLachlan, Mr D. G. Capon (Nature Study), Mr H. N. Parker, Mr J. E. Robinson. Inset: Mr A. V. O'Brien.

NEW BUILDING.—Commenced in November, 1952, and completed at the end of 1953, it extends along the Hampden Street frontage to the school grounds and faces Park Street. The cost of the building was approximately £100,000.



The history of the school during the term of office of these men has been reflected by the economic position of the country, as affected by wars, depressions, and times of prosperity.

In 1907, Mr Henry Williams was promoted from the Primary Staff to that of the High School, where he remained as Senior Assistant until his retirement in 1918. In 1913 the first and only issue until 1931 of the "Victorian", the school magazine, appeared, edited by J. H. E. Schroder, a pupil at that time. Miss Mary E. Wilson was appointed, on the resignation of Miss W. S. Potts, to the position of Infant Mistress in 1916, and this position she was to fill with conspicuous ability, success and devotion to duty until her retirement in 1945.

In 1916 too, a radical change in educational administration for Westland occurred as in that year the Westland Education Board was disestablished and all of its schools henceforth came under the control of the Canterbury Education Board.

In 1921, a monument to those former pupils who served as well as those who fell in the 1914-1918 war was erected by public subscription in the school grounds, the local Masonic Fraternity laying the foundation stone in due form and order. The gymnasium, so well used by generations of boys, culminated its life and was demolished in the early 1920's. A Dental Clinic was established in 1923, with Nurse Bogel (the late Mrs George Northercroft) as first nurse. Three nurses based on Hokitika now serve the Westland area.

A school badge or monogram, together with the school motto, "Mens sana in sano corpore", was adopted late in 1925. A full Commercial course was successfully established with the financial help of the Hokitika High School Board in 1926, which resulted in a rapid increase to a then peak roll of 114 in the High School by 1930.

At this time, too, an energetic grounds improvement scheme was undertaken, the frontage to the school being stumped, drained, and laid out in lawn. The need for funds for the School Committee became more pressing and an annual School Fair became well established. The appointment of Miss Ann P. Duff on the High School Staff in 1928 brought notable school concerts about the 1930's to the public, Miss Duff having marked ability in this direction. The earthquake of 1929 resulted in the removal, as a safety precaution, of the bell from the bell tower above the building and its erection in an iron frame tower, in the school grounds, where its warning bells of 100 strokes at 8.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. continued until its removal in 1948 to another position, the tower being dispensed with.

The depression of the 1930's was a difficult time for the school. From the middle 1930's, it became apparent that a new building would be necessary to house the school with its growing enrolment, as the brick building was outliving its usefulness. As a result of negotiations, a separate three-roomed Infant Building was erected in 1938, but it remained until late in 1950, after most protracted negotiations in the 1940's, before a rebuilding of the main school was to commence. The "Victorian" was re-issued as a High School magazine in 1931, and appeared regularly until the 1939-45 war, since when it has appeared at irregular intervals. A school uniform for the High School was introduced at this time also.

The school enrolment in the Primary Department remained fairly static around the 300 mark until the late 1940's, when by 1953 it had increased by half. The High School grew rapidly in the late 1920's, and by 1939 reached a record roll of 136. A gradual decline to less than 100 ten years later was followed by a steady increase with the growth and development of the school contributing area so that in 1953 there were 147 pupils enrolled, with good prospects of further advances in the years ahead.

At the end of January, 1938, the Diamond Jubilee of the school was celebrated. A most successful series of functions was held, friendships of former years were renewed, old times were recalled, and a time of rejoicing was enjoyed by all. As a result of the celebrations, a fund to build a Learners' Swimming Pool was founded, and a pool in the Infant grounds was eventually opened in 1942.

The war years of 1939-45 were difficult for schools, and it proved a matter of doing the best one could under the circumstances. Staff changes affecting long-service teachers in the school occurred in 1945, the retirement of Miss M. E. Wilson, and the transfer on promotion of Miss E. Dale and Mr C. L. Harper being noteworthy.

In the late 1940's the time had come to make up the leeway of the war years. The swamp at the rear of the Infant School was converted, after many delays, into a fine playing area, and attention was given to the grassed areas at the main school. Rising enrolments characteristic at this time of all schools resulted in the conversion of all shelter sheds into temporary classrooms by 1952. As supplies, short in the war years, and equipment became available, the school had to raise money for their purchase. A Home and School Association was formed in 1949. A well stocked library became a feature of the school, and a Speech Clinic was established in 1950. Finality was reached in the need for a modern new building, to house the growing school, and an up-to-date wooden structure costing about £100,000 was commenced by the successful contractors, Westland Construction Ltd., Greymouth, in November, 1950. A part-time Clerical Assistant was added to the Staff in 1949.

Scholastically, the school has, over the years, maintained its high standing, recognised by the University in placing the school on the Accrediting List in 1946. In the field of sport, the High School in particular has earned the respect of the community, its record in public competitions and in inter-school games of recent years being outstanding. The Cadet Unit, originally instituted early in the history of the school, has functioned continuously down the years. It is today enjoying a prosperous period.

Outstanding in the history of the school was the service of Miss Esther Ward, pupil teacher from 1883-1887, Assistant in both Primary and High School from 1893 to 1901, Infant Mistress from 1901 to 1911 and First Assistant with Senior Primary classes from 1911 to 1923, when she retired, after a lifetime of devoted service. Perusal of the list of Staff shows that many other assistants too gave long years of service to this school, namely Miss Annie Batten, Mr H. Williams, Miss M. E. Wilson, and Miss A. P. Duff, to mention a few.

School Committees over the years gave splendid service, coupled in many individual cases with long years of office. The work of the late

Alexander Cameron Armstrong, chairman of the School Committee from 1928 to 1950 has been commemorated in the Armstrong Assembly Hall in the new building. His devotion to the interests of the school was typical of many another Committeeman.

The opening of the new building in 1954 will mark the third permanent structure to be used by the Hokitika School. It no longer houses the complete school—the Infant Department and the Manual Training Centre are separate buildings. Times have changed. Handsome as was the first building, and modern the second in its heyday, both fell far short of what today is being provided in the third structure. An administration block, a spacious Assembly Hall which can also be used as a gymnasium, a roomy library, and three classroom wings and offices all under the one roof, together with ample storage space, typify the modern school. An up-to-date Dental Clinic is also attached. A memorial electric clock installation has been donated by many past pupils, while photographic enlargements of all past Headmasters are displayed in the main vestibule. Such, then, is the position at the end of 1953. In 1954, the new building will be officially occupied by the school. May it have a long period of service to the community, and may it uphold and enhance the traditions so truly laid by its predecessors, as evidenced by so many who have made their mark in various spheres in our national life. A list of a few of these will suffice to draw to a conclusion this outline:—

BOYD, Edwin Ford, M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), M.M. 1914-1918 War.
BUTLAND, Henry; All Black; 1893-94.
CRAWFORD, David Alfred, Commissioner of Main Roads, Queensland.
EASTGATE, Barry Peter; All Black 1952-53.
ELCOCK, Albert Richard, Solicitor, Hokitika; Mayor of Hokitika 1942-47.
FREITAS, Frank; All Black, 1928.
FURKERT, Frederick William, C.M.G.; Head of Public Works Dept.
GREEN, Mrs H. H. (nee Doris Bray); Secretary, Wellington Racing Club (first woman so appointed).
HARROP, Dr. Angus; research scholar.
HEENAN, Ernest Webb; Mayor of Hokitika, 1953.
HUDSON, Elizabeth; devoted nursing service, Hokitika.
JACK, Brigadier-General Archibald; Railways Engineer on major works in Cuba, China, Siberia.
KING, Ronald Russell; All Black, 1934-38.
KIRK, Charles Robert; Secretary Westland and Canterbury Education Boards.
MOORE, James Francis Cleveland, M.B., Ch.B.; Superintendent Grey River Hospital. Private Hospital, Wangani.
NORTHCROFT, Sir Erima, D.S.O.; Judge of Supreme Court. Distinguished military service.
OSMERS, Venerable Archdeacon Eric Alfred, M.A., F.R.E.S.
PARK, Hugh Wood Gerdon; Barrister and Solicitor, Hokitika.
PERKINS, Dudley Churchill; distinguished military service as El Capitan of Crete until his death at hands of the enemy.
PERRY, George Albert; Mayor of Hokitika, 1911-1942.
PERRY, Edward George, M.B., Ch.B.
PERRY, Arnold Edward; Mayor of Hokitika, 1947-1953.

PRESTON, Christopher Staines, M.B., Ch.B.
RICHARDS, Lt.-Col. Edwin Ernest, O.B.E., D.S.O.
RODDA, George Charles, M.B.E.; Head of the Treasury.
SCHRAMM, Frederick William; Barrister and Solicitor. M.P. for
Auckland East. Speaker, House of Representatives.
SCHRODER, John Henry Erle; Associate Editor. Now Assistant
Director of Broadcasting.
WATSON, Robert William; City Engineer, Durban, South Africa.
WOGAN, Laurence William; notable engineer, Sydney. Australian
Rugby Representative. Assistant Chief Finance Officer N.S.W.
Railways and Tramways.
WOGAN, Rupert Samuel, O.B.E.; Secretary to Social Security Commis-
sion. Director Pay Accounts and Base Records, N.Z. Army.
WOGAN, Samuel Henry; Officer in Charge, Land Transfer Drafting
Branch, Lands and Survey Department.

CHAPTER VII

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNOWN EX-PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

MORTUI LOQUUNTUR

For Freedom, and our Empire, Freedom's Nurse,
We fought and fell, and to withstand
The foul war-lust, the curse
Of outraged sea and land;
And to pass on a page
Of honour to the coming age,
In whose yet larger life we shall not cease
To breathe, and strive, and work the works of Peace.

—J. GILES.

(Dr. J. Giles was Resident Magistrate at Hokitika from 1880 to 1884. The above was written during the 1914-18 War.)

BOER WAR, 1899-1902

Herbert G. Williams

WORLD WAR I, 1914-1918

L. Appleton	E. H. Growcott
F. A. J. Barton	J. W. Harker
A. J. M. Bonar	T. Heenan
G. P. Breeze	W. Hoffman
S. G. Brown	E. J. Jones
F. Brown	T. Lynch
H. Calder	D. E. Mackay
R. C. Chillman	R. A. McMillan
W. C. Comport	G. W. Moore
A. G. Cooper	E. R. Rudkin
H. E. Debenham	J. Scott
F. W. Eisfelder	D. L. Shand
W. S. Evenden	A. J. Watters
W. E. Foote	H. Williams
H. C. D. Gaylor	G. M. Woolhouse

WORLD WAR II, 1939-1945

B. E. Andrews	D. C. Perkins
F. A. Bissell	M. Ridland
E. S. Browne	A. Rogers
W. C. Butland	J. Roberts
D. Conning	F. R. Ross
L. W. Ellis	N. J. Rowe
R. Fowler	C. P. Sparks
A. S. Gillanders	W. G. Sweeney
A. D. Hunter	J. S. Williams
E. R. Markland	R. C. Wilson

CHAPTER VIII

STAFF, 1875-1953

HEADMASTERS

W. S. Stanton (acting)	September - December	1875
Ezra Brook Dixon	...	1876/1890
John Gammell, B.A. (Lon.)	...	1891
Thomas Henry Gill, M.A., LL.B.	...	1891/1898
Hugh Godfrey Wake, M.A.	...	1899/1911
Leonard Frederick de Berry, M.A.	...	1911/1918
John Brunton, M.A.	...	1918/1920
Thomas Irvine, M.A.	...	1921/1924
Ernest Partridge, M.A.	...	1925/1930
James Lawrence Menzies	...	1930/1936
John George Johnston, M.Com.	...	1936/1940
Charles Arthur Batt	...	1940/1942
Edward Morris Stevens	...	1943/1948
William John Jefferies, M.A., Dip.Ed.	...	1948/

INFANT MISTRESSES

Miss Wilberg	... Sept. 1875	Miss Wilhelmina S. Potts	1912/1916
Mrs Laura Dixon (actg.)	1876	Miss Mary E. Wilson	... 1916/1945
Mrs Florence Galland	... 1876/1877	Miss Nancy M. Carlyon	1946-1950
Miss Annie E. B. Batten	1878/1899		(died)
Miss Esther Ward	... 1901/1911	Miss Marjorie C. Cambridge	... ... ... 1950/

SENIOR PRIMARY ASSISTANTS

Mr P. Kelly	... 1875/1876	Miss Esther Ward	... 1911/1923
Mr R. Soundy	... 1876/1879	Mr W. David Beck	... 1923/1925
Mr J. McLeod	... 1879/1881	Mr Donald C. Williamson	1925/1929
Mr R. T. Eleoate	... 1882/1889	Mr Cyril G. Warren	... 1930/1937
Mr George K. Sinclair	1890/1901	Mr F. Douglas Gillespie	1938/1951
Mr Henry Williams	... 1901/1907	Mr Maitland G. Watson	
Mr Henry R. Barrett	... 1907/1911	B.A.	... ... ... 1952/

SENIOR SECONDARY ASSISTANTS

The Rector	... 1891/1900	Mr James Niven, M.A.,
Miss Mabel Oswin, B.A.	1900/1901	M.Sc. 1919/1932
Mr Benjamin H. Low,		Mr Charles L. Harper ... 1933/1945
B.Sc.	... 1902/1906	Mr Douglas E. Clay,
Mr George Bigg-Wither,		B.A., Dip.Ed. 1946/1949
B.A.	... 1906/1907	Mr Frederick A. Bartrop, M.A., Dip.Ed. 1949/
Mr Henry Williams	... 1907/1918	

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS

Galland, Miss A.	...	1875	1877	Brown, Jane R.	...	1905/1907
Easton, Mr L. D.	...	1876	1879	Dixon, Ellenor	...	1905/1907
Kennaugh, Miss E.	...	1877	1878	Willets, Elizbeth	...	1905/1909
Carr, James	...	1877	1878	Park, Jean	...	1907/1909
Marr, Thomas	...	1877	1878	Wilson, Mary E.	...	1909/1911
Patrick, Miss	...	1878	1879			1913/1945
Wilberg, Miss M.	...	1877	1880	Renton, Phyllis A.	...	1910
Turnbull, Margaret	...	1878	1882	Leamy, Agnes W.	...	1910
McLean, Mr R.	...	1878	1881	Jones, Henry K.	...	1911
Wilkin, Mr W.	...	1879	1880	Wallace, Isabella E.	...	1910/1912
Cowan, Miss	...	1879		Breeze, Evelyn M.	...	1911/1912
Jones, Elizabeth	...	1879	1883	McGuigan, John J.	...	1911/1913
Olliver, Margaret	...	1879	1882	Henderson, Margaret E.		
Ralfe, Jessie	...	1879	1884	A.	...	1908/1909
Banks, Arthur	...	1879	1882			1914
Cox, Miss	...	1880	1881	Williams, Margaret	...	1908/1909
Ecclesfield, Eva	...	1880	1889	Ellis, Dorothy	...	1909/1910
Reynolds, Mr A.	...	1881	1883	Forsyth, Sarah	...	1911/1913
Andrew, Jane	...	1882	1885	Johnston, Mrs Margaret		
Howe, Laura	...	1883	1887	(nee Wilson)	...	1915/1916
Ward, Esther	...	1883	1887	Fraser, Ivy M.	...	1912/1913
			1893/1923	Wylie, Thomas N.	...	1914
Soffa, Ida	...	1884	1886	Mackay, Helen B.	...	1913/1914
Harrop, Arthur N.	...	1884	1888	Boyd, Edwin F.	...	1913/1915
			1892	Dale, Mrs Margaret (nee		
Ramsay, Elizabeth	...	1885		Ward)	...	1916/1930
Nightingale, Henry	...	1885	1889	Murdoch, Eileen A.	...	1915
Jack, Marion B.	...	1886	1899	Dorrington, Ruby E.	...	1914/1915
Banks, Annie	...	1887	1889	Wallace, Thyrsa M.	...	1914/1915
Cran, Elizabeth	...	1888	1891	Horton, Dorothy E.	...	1915
Aitken, Wilhelmina	...	1888	1891	Aitken, Grace M.	...	1915/1917
McLaundress, Isabella	...	1890		Osmers, Doris M.	...	1916/1917
Crawford, Louisa	...	1890	1893	Seebeck, Albert	...	1916/1917
Perry, Edith	...	1890	1893			1921/1924
Macdonald, George C.	...	1891		Willets, Marjorie	...	1916/1917
O'Brien, Margaret	...	1891	1895	Wallace, Susannah L.	...	1916/1918
Kelly, Mrs Eva	...	1892	1896	Kempthorne, Gladys E.	...	1917/1918
(nee Benjamin)	...	1900		Hackell, Charlotte M.	...	1918/1919
Macfarlane, May L.	...	1893	1899	Paterson, Gladys B.	...	1918/1919
Orr, Annie E.	...	1894	1897	Williams, Margaret	...	1918
Greville, Alice M.	...	1896	1899	Wilson, Marjorie	...	1919/1921
Moore, Marguerite	...	1897	1900			1923
Dorothy	...	1902	1910	Chesterman, Elizabeth F.	...	1919/1921
Hodgson, Sarah E.	...	1898	1899	McCullough, Thomas G.	...	1919/1921
Clarke, Edith	...	1899	1901	Evans, Clara E.	...	1920/1921
Michel, Lucy	...	1900	1901	Forsyth, G. Isabel	...	1920/1922
Martyn, Laura	...	1901	1904			and 1924
Goudie, Elizabeth M.	...	1905	1907	Seebeck, Henry J.	...	1921/1922
			1910/1911			

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS (continued)

Bell, Muriel J.	... ...	1921/1922	White, Betsy L.	... ...	1936
		1925/1927	Lane, Evelynne	... ...	1936
		1929/1932	Kerrins, Frances A.	... ...	1936
Grant, Charles G.	... ...	1921	Stephens, E. Marion	... ...	1937/1945
Ferguson, Maud	... ...	1922/1923			(died)
Fox, Coral	... ...	1922/1923	Bell, Isabella, B.A.	... ...	1937
Chesterman, Eleanor	L.	1921/1922	Bell, John	... ...	1937/1938
		1933/1935	Govan, Joyce	... ...	1938
Galbraith, Gertrude	...	1922	Grieve, Mrs Joyce	... ...	1939
Wild, Ruth	... ...	1922			(nee Govan)
Cornwall, Nell	...	1922	Linklater, Lillian	... ...	1938
Bruce, Mary	...	1923/1927	Harrison, Roderick	... ...	1938
Dale, Edna	... ...	1923 and	McCarthy, Betty O. M.	1939	
		1930/1945	Black, Marjorie N.	... ...	1939
Aitken, Alex	...	1923/1924	Habgood, John H.	... ...	1939/1941
Heenan, Myra	...	1923/1924	Trane, Noeline D.	... ...	1939
Laugeson, Marion	...	1924/1925	Kidd, Miriam J.	... ...	1939
Leslie, Evelyn	...	1924/1925	Henderson, John J.	... ...	1940/1943
Kelly, Thomas	...	1924/1925			1946/1951
Smith, Harold D.	...	1926	Park, Lenora M.	... ...	1940
Pedder, Edna M.	...	1926 and	French, Wortley B.	... ...	1940
		1929	Dove, William S.	... ...	1941/1943
Thompson, Eva E.	...	1926/1927	Reedy, Jessie V.	... ...	1941
Havill, Nere M.	...	1926	Gilmore, Phyllis A.	... ...	1941
Veale, Isabella G.	...	1927	Knowles, James A.	... ...	1942/1943
Goad, Martha J.	...	1927	Undrill, Mrs Constance	1942/1945	
Anderson, Robina	...	1927			Homecrafts Instruc.
Kennedy, Kathleen	M.	1928/1929			1946/
		and 1932	Stevenson, Mrs Eva E.	1942/1944	
Cox, Molly O.	...	1928 and	Warren, Hannah U.	... ...	1943
		1933	Heenan, Margaret J.	... ...	1943/1944
Irwin, Mollie W.	...	1928 and	O'Callaghan, Patricia	... ...	1943
		1931	Jones, Hugh A.	... ...	1943/1944
Musgrove, Jessie G.	...	1928/1929	Romans, Nancy M.	... ...	1943/1946
Sweney, Herbert M.	...	1929	Brown, Noelle	... ...	1944/1947
Wild, Millicent	...	1929 and	Park, Jean M.	... ...	1944
		1932 and	Perry, Margaret	... ...	1945
		1934	Goodfellow, Joy P.	... ...	1945/1947
O'Connor, Margaret	H.	1929			M.A.
Dixon, Jean E.	...	1930 and	Pearson, Shirley M.	... ...	1945
		1946/	Shore, Elizabeth J. P.	1945	
Veale, Jessie	...	1930/1935	Richards, Mrs A. Mar-		
Newman, Constance	...	1930 and	garet (nee Anderson)	1946	
		1934/1936	Murphy, Mrs Christina	1946	
Jordan, Ben R.	...	1930	Gilbert, Thomas W.	... ...	1946
Mortland, Violet M.	...	1931/1937	Clark, Mrs Noeline D.	1946	
Meek, Gladys M.	...	1934			(nee Brown)
Coumbe, Mabel	...	1934/1935	Romans, Valerie M.	... ...	1946/1947
McGovern, Margaret	...	1936	Reynish, June M.	... ...	1947
			Norman, Rona W.	... ...	1947/1948

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS (continued)

Coxhill, James	... 1946/1953	Paul, Lewis A.	... 1951
(Woodwork Instructor)		Denholm, Murray K.	, 1951/1953
Robinson, Noeline M.	... 1948	M.A., Dip. Ed.	
Mullins, Margaret F.	... 1948	Deller, David A.	... 1951/
Grant, Robert D.	... 1948/1950	Dent, Mrs Vera	... 1951/
Clifford, Hector W.	... 1948	Paterson, Miss Nancy	1952/
Paterson, Nancy E.	... 1948/1949	(Speech Therapist)	
Gilbert, Mrs Hannah U.	1949/1951	Barltrop, Keith	... 1952
Ford, Betty S.	... 1950	Reynish, C. Emma	... 1952/
Holdgate, David B.	... 1951/1952	Milne, Audrey	... 1952
(Speech Therapist)		Robinson, John E.	... 1952/1953
Parker, H. Noel	... 1950/	Brown, Leonard Maxwell	1953/
Villumsen, Joan	... 1950/1951	Capon, Donald G.	... 1953/
Murray, Catherine M.	... 1950	(Nature Study)	
Barkle, Peter F.	... 1950/1951	Kennedy, E. G.	... 1953/
Ussher, Walter P., B.A.,	1951	(Woodwork Instructor)	
B.Sc.		Berendt, George C.	... 1953/

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS

Ward, Esther (Primary and Secondary)	... 1893/1901	Skelton, Percy R., M.Sc.	1934/1935
Clliver, Margaret, F. L. M.A., M.Sc.	... 1906/1913	(died)	
Neilson, Isabel, M.A.	... 1913/1917	Muirhead, Percy A.	, 1937/1939
Casey, Ellen E., M.A.	1916/1917	M.A., Dip.Ed.	... 1942/1945
Laycock, Irene L.	... 1918/1921	Turner, Frederick J. C.	1938/1941
MacKay, Helen B.	... 1919	Runciman, Mary S., M.A.	... 1938/1941
Aitken, Grace M.	... 1920/1921	Brooking, Clifford T., M.A., Dip.Ed.	... 1940/1944
Stirling, Catherine A. G.	... 1921	Gosling, Mrs Jean R.	... 1943
Mayne, Helga	... 1922/1924	Ellis, Barbara J.	... 1944/1945
Aitken, Isabel M.	... 1923/1925	Douglas, Norman J., B.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.	1945/1947
Lynn, Delight M., B.A.	1925/1928	Parks, Frederick, M.A.	1946/1949
Penlington, Dorothy M., B.A.	1926	O'Brien, Albert V., B.A., Dip.Ed.	... 1947/
	... 1936	Nicol, Arthur, M.A.	... 1948/
Reid, Annie D.	... 1927/1932	Wilson, Mrs Thelma D.	
Brown, Sheila M.	... 1928/1929	(Part-time Commercial)	1948/
Duff, Anne P.	... 1928/1949	Hunter, Stanley, B.A.	1950/
Mora, John B.	... 1930	MacLachlan, Bruce R. M.A.	... 1950/
Anderson, Donald W. B.Sc.	... 1930/1932	Cole, Robert C., B.A.	... 1952/1953
Parlane, Ella M., M.A., Dip.Ed.	... 1932/1937	Mangels, Arthur J., B.Sc.	... 1953/
Cassidy, Frederick L.	... 1933/1936		

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Gillespie, Mrs E.	... 1949/1952	Hunter, Mrs D.	... 1952/
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